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WIC to remain open through federal shutdown. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 14
www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'Costly' 2nd servings for PSS meals under review

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education recommended to the Public School System to look into finances for second servings of meals for students during their last board meeting in the BOE office on Capitol Hill.

The BOE members noted during their previous board meeting that costs associated with second servings for students were too steep. PSS, on the other hand, promised that they would be looking at cutting costs for second servings for PSS meals

"My biggest concern here is a student has to pay $3.50…for seconds," said BOE Rota representative Herman Atalig. "I agree to students paying [for] second servings but [at] $3.50, that is too much," he said.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburg noted that the nutritional proportions PSS serves are sufficient per age, however, he told the

See PSS on Page 4

Powered paragliding business in Marpi eyed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Taiwanese investors say paragliders will make Marpi sky more colorful

Investors mainly from Taiwan are seeking a permit from the CNMI Zoning Office to operate a powered paragliding business on private land along Banzai Cliff Road in Marpi.

Top Sheng Investment LLC is investing $96,000 for its paragliding project on 1,000 square meters of land. Yueping Guo is listed as the lessee of the property.

Richard Peng, the contact person of Top Sheng Investment LLC, in an interview disclosed that visitors from South Korea and China are currently their main targets, but they hope

See MARPI on Page 4

NMC's February return to As Terlaje on target

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rebuilding of the Northern Marianas College continues with the combined personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency working tirelessly in order for classes to resume at the As Terlaje campus on Feb. 11.

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said typhoon-resilient classrooms are their priority whenever they evaluate the design. "We're excited to welcome the students back and we're also excited to receive a lot of community support to rebuild NMC. This means building new structures that are modern and state of the art, and that reflects the

See NMC on Page 4

JON PEREZ

Structures inside the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje campus looked like a crumpled piece of paper after Super Typhoon Yutu struck the islands of Saipan and Tinian last year.

INSIDE

NATION
Thirty days into the partial government shutdown, Democrats and Republicans appeared no closer to ending the impasse Sunday than when it began.
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OVERDRIVE
Kia's midsize Optima sedan got an exterior and interior "freshening" for 2019, the first key changes since the hybrid versions arrived in their second generation for 2017.
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LIFE & STYLE
M. Night Shyamalan scored his fifth No. 1 movie as the director's "Glass" dominated Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend at the box office.
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Local

Shayne rebounds after setback

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shayne Villanueva was working as a vice president of an insurance firm in Southern California, rising from the ranks where he learned the ways of the industry. However, despite a top-level management position, it did not preclude the company from firing him and he soon found himself jobless. That's when he decided to start his own small business then packed his bags and returned to Saipan.

"I moved back here in 2016 after spending about 15 years in San Diego where I've been in the insurance industry for a long time. At that time, I was vice president of an insurance company in Southern California and I got let go. I got fired and it happens to most of us," said Villanueva after receiving his 2018 Saipan Young Professional of the Year award in last Saturday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce Silver Lining Gala at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

He saw past that firing from the job in an industry that he has spent more than a decade ago and used it as motivation. "It was a great lesson for me and I needed it. It was the kick in my butt that I needed to start my business."

"I started to represent our culture and our people; I went out in Southern California selling T-shirts one by one. I decided to come back home and make a difference. I decided to join the Saipan Young Professionals and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce."

A few years after coming back to Saipan, Villanueva, with the support of his family and business partner Peter Aldan, opened Roil Soil Clothing Co. There's no stopping them since then and they were even commended by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during his State of the Commonwealth Address in August last year.

"We've done great things for the community as a small business. We don't make a lot of money but we have donated over $20,000 to the community in 2018," said Villanueva, who is AON Insurance's operations manager and last year's winner of the 2017 SYP Rookie of the Year award.

He then challenged other big name local businesses in developing the local workforce. "I challenged you, big business owners, to look after your young professionals this year. Mentor and grow them."

"We have open applications for you, just ship them [young professionals] over to us [SYP] and let us help you take care of them. I got the [ROY] last year; it was fun and challenging but we worked with a very good group of people."

Villanueva said that he is offering his SYP award to his grandmother after giving his ROY honors to his mom. "I gave my mom the [ROY] award last year and this one I will give it to my grandmother who raised me; she taught me everything that I know and she made me the man that I am today."

"But I challenged [my mother] since this year she's made a promise. And I'm letting everybody know to hold her accountable. She would be one of the certified psychotherapists here on Saipan by the end of this year."

Nicole Babauta of the CNMI Small Business Development Center, Derek Cutting of Latte Built 24-Hout Gym, and Janel Pangelinan of Pacific Insurance Underwriters were the other nominees for the 2018 SYP award.

JON PEREZ

Shayne Villanueva was awarded 2018 Saipan Young Professional of the Year during last Saturday's Silver Lining Gala of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

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DOJ recommends term extension for EEMC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government recommends a one-year extension for Gilbane Federal, the federal court-appointed Engineering and Environmental Management Company which is tasked to oversee some of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s stalled projects.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien said the court's order specifically authorizes extending the EEMC's term and therefore, its term should be extended approximately one year until Feb. 15, 2021.

In the U.S. government's January status report about CUC stipulated order projects, O'Brien pointed out that at the August 2018 status conference, one of the topics briefly discussed was extending EEMC's term.

O'Brien said the U.S. and CNMI governments and CUC continue to make substantial progress in Stipulated Order 2 (SO2), but additional time is needed to efficiently complete the projects using the EEMC funds to the extent possible.

"There should be no dispute that the EEMC term be extended to accomplish these goals," he said as he noted CUC's status report stated good things about EEMC's work.

In December 2014, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter selected Gilbane Federal, a California-based full-service construction company with 64 offices worldwide, as an EEMC which will have the power to expeditiously complete some CUC stalled projects.

In CUC's January status report, CUC legal counsel James Sirok said that on SO2 projects, he was informed that projects under the outstanding task orders are moving along on a timely basis without any major problems.

Sirok said the parties agree that the remaining and expected EEMC account funds are being utilized efficiently.

"CUC also believes that the parties are progressing toward completion of these priority projects in a positive manner without conflict or dispute between EEMC and CUC," Sirok said.

Sirok said CUC feels that its work and coordination with the EEMC and with the DOJ and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, related to specific work being performed, or to be performed, under the various uncompleted task orders, has developed into a very good, strong and cordial team working environment.

SO 1 refers to the court-mandated CUC projects that focus on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

SO 2 focuses on oil issues and also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

WIC to remain open through federal shutdown

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Women, Infants, and Children program on Saipan remains "open for business" through the federal shutdown, according to the program's administrator.

While not specifying until when, WIC program administrator Erin Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that they would be remaining open through the federal shutdown that is plaguing the U.S. mainland for over a month.

"We have enough reserve funding to remain open during the shutdown," Camacho noted. "If it does not become protracted," she continued, referring to the federal shutdown that left over 800,000 federal employees unpaid since Dec. 22, 2018.

Camacho

"Our clinics remain open for normal schedules. Appointments will not be cancelled and our WIC clinic staff are available to assist them," Camacho assured. "Our WIC grocery stores and food benefits will be processed normally," she continued.

The federally funded program did not specify how long they would be "open for business." According to Camacho, the program for fiscal year 2018 served an average 3,205 participants monthly.

"We want to stress to our participants and our vendors that WIC is open for business during the shutdown," Camacho reiterated.

Other government agencies noted a similar reaction to the federal shutdown.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that their Nutritional Assistance Program and Enhanced Nutritional Assistance Program seems to provide no indication of funding shortage at least until March 2019. He previously noted that the program has funds to use at least until March 2019.

The Board of Education, through former Tinian representative Florine Hofschneider, remained worried about the shutdown affecting the schools, however former board chair Marylou Ada noted that the Public School System already has a contingency plan for worst case scenarios regarding the federal shutdown.

NMHC to purchase modular homes to address shortage of housing

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is currently in the process of purchasing modular homes to address the shortage of housing as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

During an interview with NMHC office manager/procurement officer Jacob Muna, he said that in light of long-term recovery following Super Typhoon Yutu, NMHC anticipates the purchase of modular homes that will serve as transitional homes for those who completely lost their homes to Yutu.

"Right now we're still looking at modular homes and also debris removal. Those two are the two projects that we're anticipating to fulfill…to address the shortage of housing… The modular homes will be the transitional homes…once we purchase that it should be ready," he said.

Muna said that NMHC is still awaiting approval to purchase the modular homes.

"Right now, we're just focused on the purchase, its pending approval…. it's geared toward those affected by the typhoon, basically those who lost their homes completely," he said.

NMHC will also join forces with the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota municipalities to rid the islands of typhoon debris.

"We're going to be helping mayor's offices of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with debris removal…pending approval," he said.

Muna said that funding for their typhoon recovery projects are available, their projects are just pending approval.

Muna said that there have been no completed projects in the last year under their grant programs.

"Right now our anticipated projects are Kagman Community Center, Koblerville Youth Center, and of course the typhoon recovery," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL closed today

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed today, Jan. 22, 2019 in lieu of yesterday's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.

When a holiday falls on a Sunday or Monday, the library closes on Tuesday after the holiday.

JKPL will reopen tomorrow, Jan. 23, 2019 for regular hours. Please enjoy the time with family and friends!

For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu and Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. ***(PR)***

OVR Tinian outreach tomorrow

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation would like to inform the public that they will be conducting their regular monthly outreach on Tinian tomorrow, Jan. 23, 2019. OVR counselor, Rose Ichiuo, will be at the Northern Marianas College campus Room D from 8:30am to 2:30pm. If you would like to meet with her please give her a call at 287-6548. ***(PR)***

Humanities awards on Thursday

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting the 21st Governor's Humanities Awards at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant on Thursday, Jan. 24, starting at 11am. ***(PR)***

I Kumision i Fino' CHamoru meeting this Thursday

Due to extenuating circumstances, the Kumision i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'någuen i Historia yan Lina'la Taotao Tano' (I Kumision i Fino' CHamoru) has moved its Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019 meeting to the usual time, Thursday, Jan. 24, from 12:30pm to 3pm at its Hagatña location, the Garden House at the Plaza de España.

Agenda includes 1. Logistics for the Mina' Dos Fina'che'cho' on Friday, 1/25/19; and, 2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. ***(PR)***

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AS YUTU DEBRIS CONTINUE TO PILE UP

DPW working on Marpi landfill's side slope

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly three months following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu, the Department of Public Works and their partner agencies continue to work tirelessly to rid the island of typhoon debris.

DPW continues on with the segregation process and continues to fill up the slide slopes of Marpi landfill's cell one.

According to a previous interview with Enrique Dela Cruz, DPW's Solid Waste Management director, said although there has been a lot of trash and debris entering the Marpi dump recently, it only continues to fill the slide slope of cell one.

Although they are still working on the side slope, DPW is working on the construction of cell three in order to open cell two.

"Hopefully we don't take too long because I look at this as kind of urgent…We already have a proposal that we're evaluating out of the four and they're the ones that's going to be doing the architect and engineering to construct cell three," he said.

Dela Cruz explained that it's necessary to construct cell three before opening up cell two to prevent the contamination of ground water.

"We have to prevent that storm water that's holding up in cell two, we have to prevent them from migrating into cell three…if there's leeching that's going to contaminate the ground water," he said.

Dela Cruz said that DPW and its partner agencies like the Saipan Mayor's Office is still currently working on picking up the remaining typhoon debris and segregating them before dumping them in the landfill.

"We're doing a lot of separation especially for construction debris from the typhoon…We're doing our best…. all the good people of Public Works are doing their best," he said.

In a previous interview with Department of Homeland Security public relations officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero, she said that DPW and the Saipan Mayor's Office have been doing an amazing job in terms of debris removal.

Branford, Florida-based Capstone Pacificas has also been hiring CNMI residents to clear typhoon debris.

4.6-magnitude quake on Rota no threat to Marianas

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 4.6-magnitude earthquake felt on Rota last Sunday night poses no threat to neighboring Saipan and Tinian.

According to information from the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, a 4.6-magnitude temblor shook the island of Rota last Sunday evening at around 7:20pm.

The information stated that there was no threat of a tsunami following the earthquake.

The earthquake was seen located at 14.117°N 145.364°E with a depth of 110.9 km.

This was the first reported earthquake in the Marianas of 2019.

Leadership program to boost Pacific Island fisheries sector

NADI, Fiji—The inaugural workshop of a five-year Pacific Fisheries Leadership Programme (PFLP) began this week in Nadi, Fiji. This significant initiative, in support of the Pacific's most prominent industry, aims to improve the quality and diversity of leadership, management and cooperation across Pacific fisheries and support the goals of the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries.

The three-week workshop now underway in Novotel Hotel, Nadi, brings together 23 emerging leaders from Pacific fisheries sectors across the region to share, learn and be challenged in sessions facilitated by experts from the University of Queensland (UQ) Business School. Participants will be provided with practical and theoretical guidance on sustainable fisheries issues.

Funded by the New Zealand government and administered by the Pacific Community (SPC), the PFLP will be delivered by a consortium partners including SPC, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), University of Queensland (UQ), People Focus and The Centre for Adaptive Leadership (CCA). The Programme will take place in three stages over five years.

At opening of the workshop, Cameron Bowles, Team Leader for PFLP, expressed his thanks to the PFLP partners and emphasised the leadership principles of the program, "PFLP brings different people focused perspectives, skills and experience to an area that is highly technically skilled. The programme will help develop the essential tools required to adapt and respond to emerging challenges in the fisheries sector."

Over the next five years, 125 current and emerging leaders in the Pacific Island fisheries sector will participate in different modules of PFLP. Participants in this learning journey will take part in face-to-face workshops, learning experiences, coaching and resources relevant to their daily work. Integral to the success of the PFLP are the coaching sessions that link the modules on Leadership for Effectiveness, Leadership Experience, and Leadership for Change.

SPC director-general Colin Tukuitonga highlighted the significance of PLFP and its potential impact on Pacific fisheries saying, "The importance of supporting sustainable fisheries in the pacific cannot be understated. Investing in future leaders through a programme like this will insure that our region has the expertise in needs to be a global leader in sustainable fisheries management."

The inaugural workshop is due to conclude on Feb. 8 when participants will then begin workplace projects designed to apply learning from the workshop to their real-life contexts. ***(PR)***

NMC

From Page 1

CNMI's future."

"It is not just to address the current needs, but also the future of the CNMI, we're very excited for that. Typhoon-resilient designs are also considered for NMC classrooms, to make sure that we don't go through the same devastation again. I know there are no structures that's really typhoon proof, but as much as possible we want to get things close to it."

A lot of NMC's classrooms and structures were damaged by Yutu, which struck the CNMI three years after Typhoon Soudelor. The Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA, since early this month, have been building and installing temporary classroom structures so that classes could resume at the As Terlaje campus of the College.

NMC would have a total of 30 classrooms, 24 of which are temporary structures erected by the Army Engineers and FEMA, when it reopens next month. Several other NMC buildings are expected to be back.

JON PEREZ

A lot of Northern Marianas College's classrooms and structures were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck Saipan and Tinian in late October 2018.

"We're looking forward to welcoming them [students] back to the campus. It has been three months since we had them on. Afternoon and evening classes are ongoing at Saipan Southern High School since early January," said Eliptico.

"But, we've been engaging them. We've been meeting with them at [SSHS]. We've deployed our counsellors there and some of our staff. We had also held some of our events and activities for them at SSHS but we want to bring them home."

He added that they are also looking at various funding sources for the ongoing construction of new facilities inside their campus. "Of course, we will get some funds from FEMA, which will reimburse us from the damage that we incurred. We're also actively applying for grants, through the Economic Development Authority."

"We're also looking at other places where we can obtain funds like the U.S. [Department of Agriculture] that has a loan program. We will also be approaching the Legislature to help us get approve with a loan. Where they must help to guarantee the debt servicing to rebuild NMC. So, we're looking at various [funding] sources that we don't have to pay back."

MARPI

From Page 1

to bring more Japanese tourists in the near future.

Peng said one of their trainers will be hired from Japan.

Asked why the company has chosen Marpi, Peng said paragliders need to stay away from the airport and avoid intrusion into private airspace.

"It can be said that it is the safest activity in all current air activities," he said.

Peng said the company's fly route is along the coastline, but they will see to it they will not disturb the tourists on the ground.

Peng said powered paragliding will make the sky in Marpi more colorful.

The Zoning Office has invited the public to attend and provide comments at the Zoning Board hearing this Thursday at 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe on Top Sheng Investment LLC's request for conditional use permit to operate the powered paragliding business.

Peng is the same contact person of Fortune Pacific Corp., which also sought Zoning board's approval for permit in July 2017 to operate a paragliding business on a private land south of the Kalabera Cave in Marpi.

Peng said Fortune Pacific's paragliding business project was never operated due to the land clear permit, the large number of flies brought by the nearby cattle farms, and the bumpy roads to the destination.

PSS

From Page 1

board that action would be taken on the issue.

"If [students] want a second serving, that is [actually] the price of a second meal," he said. "I will see what we can do, but we really want every student eating meals," he continued, adding that vendors prepare "just enough" daily.

Then BOE member Herman Guerrero noted that it was something that should definitely be discussed. He added that the number of students that availed of second servings should be noted and that not too many avail of second servings, for Saipan at least, Atalig emphasized.

"Not on Rota, sir," said Atalig. "…30 percent to 40 percent of students [avail of second servings]," he added.

"I would like to recommend that it is included in the budget," Guerrero said addressing Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, suggesting that the state education agency shoulder the second servings for students.

"We might not be able to do it with federal grants, but I think we can let the local government absorb the costs," he said, respecting then BOE chair Marylou Ada by first seeking her approval. Guerrero added that PSS in the past had been appropriated funds to cover the cost for feeding hungry students.

"…Even if it [costs] $10,000 [or] $20,000, let's help these kids. Because if they are hungry, we are defeating the whole purpose [of education]," he said.

The board did not vote on it specifically, however Guerrero noted that the recommendation was something that the BOE could look for in the future during fiscal year 2020 budget discussions for PSS.

Cancer clinical trials will be available in Guam through FHP Health Center

TAMUNING, Guam—The National Cancer Institute has approved the addition of FHP Health Center, Guam, to its NCI Community Oncology Research Progra in January 2019. FHP's affiliation with the University of Hawai 'i Cancer Center's Minority/ Underserved NCORP will allow patients in Guam to participate in NCI-sponsored cancer clinical trials.

"When I moved to Guam two years ago, realized that, although efforts had been made in the past to get NCI-sponsored cancer clinical trials to Guam, no one had succeeded," said Samir Ambrale, MD., MPH, FHP Health Center NCORP site principal investigator, Guam. "Most (95 percent) cancer care is delivered locally in Guam. Patients are advised about enrollment in cancer clinical trials available in Hawai'i or the continental U.S. for treatment of advanced cancer, but are routinely unable to travel off island for cancer care due to financial reasons and lack of social support. The new affiliation with the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center NCORP program will allow for cancer patients in Guam to have access locally to the latest treatments through cancer clinical trials. Research has shown that clinical trials are crucial to improving quality of cancer care."

"Currently, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Asians represent a small fraction of patients enrolled in NCI-sponsored cancer clinical trials nationwide. The inclusion of Guam to NCORP will increase accruals of underrepresented populations including ethnic minorities and rural residents," said Jeffrey Berenberg, MD, UH Cancer Center's Hawai'i Minority/ Underserved NCORP principal investigator. "There is a great need to introduce cancer control, prevention and cancer care delivery research trials to Guam given the heterogeneous population, geographic location, unique cultural practices and diet."

The majority (81 percent) of Guam's population consists of Native Hawaiians, Pacific islanders, and Asians. During the period 2008-2012, 1,904 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in Guam and 736 residents lost their life to cancer. "We are delighted to be partnered with the UH Cancer Center and are committed to providing novel cancer therapies and treatments to our island residents," said Jeffrey Larsen, vice president of the FHP Health Center.

"It has been a long-term goal of the UOG Cancer Research Center to facilitate cancer clinical trials here on Guam," said Rachael T. Leon Guerrero, director of the UOG Cancer Research Center. "Through UOG's partnership with the UH Cancer Center and the addition of the FHP Health Center to NCORP, our community will now have access to the some of the most advanced cancer treatments and will contribute to cancer research for populations like ours."

"Researchers at the UH Cancer Center, FHP Health Center and the University of Guam have been working diligently for months to complete requirements for joining the NCORP. The addition of FHP Health Center to NCORP's list of sites has been possible due to collaborative efforts to elevate the level of cancer care, increase the availability of new treatments and help eliminate cancer related disparities in the region," said Randall Holcombe, MD, MBA, UH Cancer Center director.

The FHP Health Center, one of Micronesia's leading medical clinics located in Guam, integrates complete and optimized healthcare under one trusted family brand. Established in 1973, FHP has blossomed to encompass eleven Centers of Care. These centers include Urgent Care, Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Women's Health, Occupational Health, Diagnostic Imaging, Home Health, Pharmacy, a Specialty Center (Hematology/Oncology), as well as Dental and Vision Centers. FHP features a roster of highly trained, credentialed, well-known and respected community-based physicians and professional staff. In addition, the center boasts modern technology and equipment that support the entire spectrum of medical services and expertise provided to its patients. Follow Dr Ambrale on Twitter @ samirambrale. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Samir Ambrale, M.D., M.P.H., Hematology-Medical Oncology; Rulieta DeVelles, RN; Jeff Larsen, FHP vice president; Flordeliza Crisostomo, FHP medical assistant; Mariel Nucum, RN; and Dave Torre, FHP senior clinic manager

VISITORS

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Philippine honorary consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago and Desolee Calayo (extreme right) join a group photo with visitors from the Philippines, from left, Cebu City chief prosecutor Liceria Lofranco-Rabillas, Betty Quebec, and former Philippines Labor attache lawyer Araceli Maraya at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Mai Teppanyaki Restaurant last week. Maraya and Quebec were formerly assigned at the Philippine Consulate on Saipan. Lofranco-Rabillas used to work as a paralegal counsel for attorney Joe Hill. Calayo is the mother of former Grace Christian Academy student Justine Calayo, who was named as the 2015 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee champion. Friends Maraya, Lofranco-Rabillas, and Quebec toured Saipan after leaving the island more than a decade ago.

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Friday, January 25, 2019 at 12:00 pm, in Rota, at the Rota Health Center Conference Room.

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Reports
  A. Management & Operations
  B. Financial Statement
  C. CHCC Budget
  D. Malpractice Insurance
  E. CMS & ECRI Dashboard Update
  F. QAPI Report
  G. ESRD
VII. New Business
  A. Evaluation of CEO – Deadline & Tools
VIII. Old Business
  A. Update on CUC
  B. Update on Chargemaster
  C. Update on Telemedicine/Telepharmacy
  D. Status of Rota Trustee
IX. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel.
X. Announcement
XI. Adjournment

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 12:00 pm in the CEO's Conference room 3 located at the Administrative Offices

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
January 23, 2019 at 12:00 pm

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Approval of Medical Staff Bylaws
V. To vote and Approve Applications for Privileges
  New Applicants: 1) Dr. Anne Rohlfing;
  2) Dr. Gabrielle Liu 3) Dr. Amanda Devlin;
  4) Seung Gin Lee, CRNA
  Renewal Applicants:
  5) Dr. James Hofschneider;
  6) Dr. Michael Koning;
  7) Losana Rogoyawa, Midwife
VI. Adjournment

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net • Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its board meeting on **January 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's Conference Room at Bldg. #1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (7/25/18)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
VII. Director's Report
  • Financial Report
  • Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2018
  • Re-posting of BPL Rules and Regulations
  • NCARB and AARO Membership
  • ASC Compliance Review onsite Visit – August 5-9, 2019
  • 2019 Off-Island Board Meetings Schedule
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
  • Comments on NCARB Continuing Education
XII. Applications for Board's Review
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

OVER DERAILED UB040 CONCERT

San Diego resident dismissed from claims in lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court on Friday dismissed without prejudice the claims in the Saipan concert promoter Steven Brownstein's lawsuit against a San Diego, California resident who engages in the entertainment business.

Dismiss without prejudice means Brownstein can still re-file his claims against San Diego resident Fredrick Holloman.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the claims against Holloman following Brownstein's request.

Brownstein owns the Steven Brownstein Entertainment. He, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, informed the court last week that he was unable to serve Holloman with process pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

With the dismissal of the claims against Holloman and co-defendant Jason H. Aldan, Manglona directed the court's clerk to close the case.

Aldan is a former CNMI resident who is now based in Honolulu.

Brownstein's lawsuit arose over the derailed concert of world-famous English reggae and pop bond UB40 in Guam and Saipan in 2005.

Last Jan. 16, Manglona issued an order to show cause, directing Brownstein to explain why his claims in the lawsuit against Holloman should not be dismissed.

In the order to show cause, Manglona said that on May 4, 2018, Brownstein filed a second amended complaint, naming Holloman as a co-defendant of Aldan.

Manglona said Brownstein has not filed proof of service and that Holloman has not filed an answer to the claims has not appeared.

Last Jan. 15, Manglona dismissed the action as between Brownstein and defendant Aldan after the two reached a settlement deal.

Manglona's Jan. 15 order did not terminate the action with respect to Holloman, who was not a party to agreement to dismiss the lawsuit.

Brownstein and Aldan have reached a settlement deal.

The amount and terms of the settlement are confidential.

In April 2017, Brownstein filed the lawsuit against Holloman and Aldan for allegedly defrauding his company of $115,000 by misrepresenting to have the UB40 perform in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

The complaint alleges that Aldan works for CNMI Medical Referral in Hawaii, but also has worked from time to time with Brownstein to bring entertainers to Saipan.

Brownstein filed claims of breach of contract by Holloman, and fraud and unjust enrichment by Holloman and Aldan.

In July 2017, Aldan, through counsel Robert T. Torres, filed a motion to dismiss the fraud and unjust enrichment claims against him.

In November 2017, the court granted that motion and dismissed the claims without prejudice, giving Brownstein leave to amend.

In January 2018, Brownstein filed a first amended complaint naming only Aldan as a defendant and omitting the breach-of-contract claims against Holloman.

In May 2018, Brownstein filed a second amended complaint naming both Aldan and Holloman as defendants, and a new summons for Holloman was issued.

Aldan counterclaims for abuse of process. He asserts that Brownstein is using this lawsuit to make him (Aldan) "a scapegoat for the backlash, bad press, and embarrassment that Steven Brownstein Entertainment has encountered.

LAID TO REST JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, hands over the CNMI flag to Lisa Manglona Dela Cruz, the widow of the late representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz during last Saturday's funeral at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

Gold's Gym Saipan starts 2019 Challenge

Gold's Gym Saipan launched its yearly 12 Week Challenge last Saturday, Jan. 19, and is encouraging members and the community alike to participate.

Tyce Mister, Gold's Gym general manager, said anyone interested in making a change in their life is encouraged to participate.

He said although the 12-week countdown has begun, registration will be open until the middle of February. At stake in the 12 Week Challenge is $5,000 in cash and prizes. All CNMI residents are encouraged and eligible to participate.

"Hopefully the 2019 Challenge can serve as a catalyst for change into creating a healthy lifestyle for you and your family for the duration of the Challenge and even more important—beyond! The goal is a healthier you, healthier friends and family, and a healthier community," said Mister.

For the small investment of only $75 ($25 discount for members), there are many benefits, including Saturday Challenge Bootcamp led by one of Gold's Gym Saipan's NASM-certified personal trainers Aaron Tomokane.

The Challenge BootCamp is a great place to meet others with a common goal of health and fitness.

"This is a transformation challenge and we want everyone to be safe," said Tomokane. "We encourage body fat loss when necessary to be healthier, but we want to see lean body mass (muscle) either maintained or even increased as part of the transformation challenge."

Entry even includes the awards banquet and valuable discounts. Gold's Gym Saipan could not do this without some key team players and would like to thank the 2019 Challenge supporters: PHI Pharmacy, Michelob Ultra, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, and Saipan Apparel.

Last year's 12 Week Challenge ended in April with Elizabeth Lebria and Shawna Brennfleck taking the top prizes.

Both maintained their weight or even lost weight, dropping body fat 1 percent and maintaining or even increasing their lean body mass. They will enjoy six-month gift certificates to Gold's Gym.

Stop by Gold's Gym Saipan or call 233-4000 to register or for more information. ***(PR)***

Alameda-based Coast Guard cutter and crew depart for Western Pacific patrol

On a gray and foggy morning, tears intermingled with rain as family members braved the elements to say goodbye to the 170 crewmembers of Coast Guard Cutter *Bertholf* (WMSL-750), a 418-foot national security cutter, which departed Alameda, California, Sunday for a patrol in the Western Pacific Ocean.

The U.S. Coast Guard has an enduring role in the Indo-Pacific going back over 150 years. The service's ongoing deployment of resources to the region directly supports U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives in the Indo-Pacific Strategy and the National Security Strategy.

"The United States is a Pacific nation," said Vice Adm. Linda Fagan, commander Coast Guard Pacific Area, who was present to see the cutter depart. "We have deep and long-standing ties with our partners in the region, and more importantly, we share a strong commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, governed by a rules-based international system that promotes peace, security, prosperity and sovereignty of all nations."

Bertholf will be operating in support of United States Indo-Pacific Command, which oversees military operations in the region. As part of its planned operations, the cutter will engage in professional exchanges and capacity building with partner nations.

"Security abroad equals security at home," said Fagan. "Enhancing our partners' capabilities is a force multiplier in combating transnational criminal and terrorist organizations and deterring our adversaries."

As both a federal law enforcement agency and an armed force, the Coast Guard is uniquely positioned to conduct defense operations in support of Combatant Commanders on all seven continents. The service routinely provides forces in joint military operations worldwide, including the deployment of cutters, boats, aircraft and deployable specialized forces.

"I'm excited to see *Bertholf* sail today to the Indo-Pacific region of operations," said Fagan, who described the cutter as one of the most capable in the Coast Guard fleet.

"They will be serving alongside other DoD military forces, particularly the U.S. Navy, and I know they will contribute key capabilities to that mission set. This crew has worked incredibly hard to get ready for today's sailing, and I can't think of a better ship and crew to be sending to the Indo-Pacific."

Commissioned in 2008, *Bertholf* is the first of the Coast Guard's legend class national security cutters. These advanced ships are 418-feet long, 54-feet wide, and have a 4,600 long-ton displacement. They have a top speed in excess of 28 knots, a range of 12,000 nautical miles, endurance of up to 90 days and can hold a crew of up to 170.

The cutter is named for Coast Guard legend Ellsworth P. Bertholf, who served as captain of the Revenue Cutter Bear during the famous Overland Relief Expedition, earning the Congressional Gold Medal. As the Coast Guard's fourth commandant, Bertholf oversaw the transfer of the Coast Guard into the Department of the Navy during World War I and advocated for the successful postwar reconstitution of the service.

National security cutters feature advanced command and control capabilities, aviation support facilities, stern cutter boat launch and increased endurance for long-range patrols to disrupt threats to national security further offshore.

The Coast Guard is scheduled to commission its seventh national security cutter, the Coast Guard Cutter Kimball, in 2019. Kimball, along with the Midgett, which is currently under construction, will be homeported in Honolulu and will enhance the Coast Guard's presence throughout the Indo-Pacific.

"The U.S. Coast Guard's unique authorities, capabilities, and missions make us the maritime safety and security partner of choice for sea-going countries around the world," said Capt. John Driscoll, Bertholf's commanding officer. "Our increased presence throughout the Indo-Pacific will enhance regional stability and improve maritime governance and security."

In an address to the families and crew before the cutter set sail, Driscoll emphasized how critical family support is to crew wellbeing and readiness.

"Support from our families, wherever they live, is vital to ensuring we are ready to sail and answer the demands of our nation," Driscoll said. "We must ensure our families are ready to weather the storm at home. We operate in a dangerous and high-consequence environment, and your ability to focus on mission can become easily compromised if you are worried about family."

Fagan acknowledged the current lapse in appropriations and government shutdown has added stress and feelings of uncertainty to the typical emotions that surround a cutter departure.

"I know it is hard for these crews to be leaving behind their dependents and spouses – it's a thousand times more so when everyone is wondering when our next paycheck will be, and how they can support the family they are leaving behind," Fagan said.

"There has been an incredible outpouring of support for the families here in the Alameda area, but the tension and the anxiety for the crew is real," said Fagan. "We are standing by to help support those families who are left behind the same way that we are going to support the crew as they sail for the Western Pacific." ***(PR)***

IEM donates air stairs to Saipan airport

RESEARCH TRIANGLE, N.C.—Innovative Emergency Management donated air stairs to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to replace jet bridges that were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. The two sets of stairs arrived in Saipan on Nov. 12, 2018, and were immediately assembled for use. On Dec. 21, 2018, a small ceremony took place to commemorate the new stairs.

IEM, an emergency management and disaster recovery consulting firm, sent their Air Ops team to Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan and Tinian in November of last year to help with the Yutu disaster response. The Air Ops team provided logistical and planning support for the tracking of supplies and relief workers arriving in Saipan and Tinian from destinations such as Guam, Hawaii, and the mainland United States. The team also provided oversight for the acquisition and delivery of the air stairs, assembled them, and provided safety training to airport staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Innovative Emergency Management and Commonwealth Ports Authority personnel in front of the donated air stairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Dec. 21, 2018.

In December, IEM vice president of International Homeland Security and Emergency Management Bryan Koon and IEM Air Ops manager Don Griffith visited the Air Ops team on the ground. During their stay, a ceremony was held at the airport that was attended by Koon, Griffith, representatives of the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), and the IEM Air Ops team.

"The damage that the airport in Saipan sustained during Super Typhoon Yutu was significant, and had the potential to cause a ripple effect within the local economy should commercial flights be suspended for too long. We wanted to help the island and the people of Saipan to move from the response to the recovery phase quickly, and restoring contributors to the economy, like tourists, plays a role in that," said Koon. "We commend our community partners in Saipan and Tinian for the hard work they have put in to recovering from Yutu. It is encouraging to know that the CPA and airport personnel will be able to use these air stairs long after the island rebuilds."

» Air stairs to replace jet bridges damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu

The larger of the two sets of air stairs reaches wide-body aircraft, including Boeing 747s, Boeing 767s, and Boeing 777s. The smaller set is for narrow-body aircraft such as Boeing 737s and Airbus A321s. The stairs can also be used by Boeing 747 crews to offload cargo without relying on a scissor lift. The additional air stairs allow for a combined total of three commercial passenger aircraft to operate at Saipan International Airport.

IEM is an emergency management and disaster recovery consulting firm dedicated to building a safe, secure, and resilient world. A woman- and minority-owned company, IEM provides services and expertise at every stage of the emergency management cycle—from preparedness and prevention/protection to mitigation, response, and recovery. We integrate science, technology, and real-world experience to provide our customers with solutions that work and outcomes that matter. For more information, please visit www.iem.com. ***(PR)***

DOCOMO expands telecom footprint by entering teleport business

TAMUNING, Guam—DOCOMO PACIFIC, the leading provider of telecommunications services in Guam and the CNMI, is making a major investment in connectivity enhancements by entering the satellite Teleport business.

Through an exciting new partnership with Hawaii Pacific Teleport, DOCOMO is growing its telecommunications footprint by expanding its reach and capabilities to connect global customers through satellite teleport services. HPT is a Hawaii-based international provider of satellite and fiber-based communications providing connectivity between the U.S. and the Asia Pacific.

The partnership, created in 2018, is the first of its kind between DOCOMO and HPT. This partnership with HPT allows DOCOMO to improve carrier quality connectivity, enhance colocation and disaster recovery for partnering companies, and offer network redundancy and diversity through satellite bandwidth to islands with limited subsea cables. The 12,000-square-foot Guam Teleport located in Pulantat, Guam will offer a U.S.-based teleport facility in the Pacific with access to a number of countries with lower latency and multiple backhaul options.

"Over the past year, it's been great to build our relationship and work together with Hawaii Pacific Teleport. As an innovator of new and emerging technology, we're excited to grow our footprint while offering unique communication services throughout the region. Our partnership with HPT allows DOCOMO PACIFIC to improve the communication needs of many organizations while helping them connect millions around the world. We look forward to the many benefits this new venture will bring to our region while allowing us to remain a leader in innovation and telecommunications in Guam and the CNMI," said DOCOMO president and CEO Roderick Boss.

DOCOMO is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO. Headquartered in Tamuning Guam, DOCOMO is the largest provider of telecommunications services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

DOCOMO PACIFIC provides a full range of carrier services connecting the Marianas (Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) and beyond, from simple cross connects to comprehensive international connectivity. DOCOMO continues to lead the telecommunications industry in the Marianas as the only MEF 2.0 Carrier Ethernet Certified Company and fosters continual innovation with a DOCOMO 5G Open Lab set to open at its headquarters in Tamuning, Guam in early 2019. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-044

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW PICK-UP TRUCK, 4WD, 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DCCA/OoA-043

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "J" VEHICLE, FIFTEEN PASSENGER VAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE ON AGING"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-045

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2019 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW PICK-UP TRUCK, FOUR-DOOR, DOUBLE CAB, 4WD, 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance January 24th, 2019 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from December 20th, 2018

II. Public Comments

III. Reports
1. Administrator
2. Chair
3. Committee
   a. Committee on Awards
   b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
   c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
   d. Committee on Program and Development
   e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. Old Business
1. Re-examination of SHEFA application deadline for NMTI
2. Increase grant-in-aid amount for both off-island and on-island recipients
3. Marianas Public Land Trust financial assistance for eligible applicants
4. NMC Request for application deadline extension for Spring 2019

V. New Business
1. Spring 2019 application status
2. 2019 Contract of legal counsel

VI. Executive Session

VII. Misc.

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Romalina Maratita Petitioner, vs. Robinson Welly Respondent, : FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0438 : **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 1283 Rota, MP 96951 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dates this 3rd day of January, 2019.
/s/
Clerk of Court

Final Relief Distribution for Super Typhoon Yutu

Photos by ERWIN ENCINARES

Volunteer CNMI government staff distribute relief goods at the Garapan Fishing Base over the weekend.

Volunteers continuously unload goods brought to the venue.

Former senator Ray Yumul volunteers in last Saturday's relief distribution.

Meals Ready-to-Eat were distributed as well as cooking utensils.

Two volunteers hand relief goods to motorists.

The line of cars heavily affected the traffic at the Garapan Beach Road area.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter gives away a mosquito net.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNT ANALYST
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience and two (2) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera and MAS 90; Preferably with Night Audit experience and must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
Minimum of five (5) years work experience with at least one (2) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera System, MAS 90, Kronos Payroll System and Web Cash Management System. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Must be knowledgeable on Property Management System (PMS) – Opera. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ENGINEERING MANAGER
Minimum of three (3) years of Engineering industry experience at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience. a Vocational degree or an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering or combination and/or related experience in the Engineering field is required. Technical knowledge and proficiency on electrical, plumbing and boiler operations is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hrs business are also essential. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required, plus have a minimum of three (3) years of experience working in a supervisory role in Food & Beverage. Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office and the use of Micros point-of-sale systems. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BANQUET MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years work experience in coordinating banquet events and functions plus three (3) years of managerial / supervisory experience. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent to work experience in the hotel industry and events. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills and have the ability to lead a team. Must have previous work experience as a server in a first class operation. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(4) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year of related work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of five (5) years of bartender experience, with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must be at least 21 years old. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays

(5) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) CHEF DE CUISINE
Minimum of three (3) years relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards, and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(6) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALIST
Minimum IT industry experience (5yearsminimum) and Bachelor's Degree in IT related field required; thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required, this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and server operating systems, Microsoft application support, SQL 2017 & Oracle database administration skills and corporate anti-virus software, Access data base and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Must have an experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP / IP,PPP, and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration, switches and fiber is required. Applicant must have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support, System backups and general network administration. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business are also essential. A+, Network+, and / or MCP certification are also highly desirable.

(12) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) COOK – THAI CUISINE
Minimum of two (2) years work experience in preparing Thai and Asian cuisine. Must be able to coordinate and support team members within the kitchen department. Must be able to communicate clearly in English. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR
Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES)
Minimum of five (5) years of proven experience in the electrical/electronic fields and the ability to demonstrate high proficiency in these areas is required. A thorough knowledge of electrical / electronic components and equipment including the use of special instruments for diagnostic purposes is required. Skill-level requirements vary from troubleshooting to board- or component-level repair. Willing to work any shift and overtime as required. Applicants must be versed in all aspects of the "Clubmate" position. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF
Minimum of six (6) years of progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have at least two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(6) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Must have at least three (3) years related work experience in Food & Beverage service, two (2) years of supervisory experience, plus one (1) year relevant work experience in coordinating events; Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment; must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN
Minimum of six (6) month's work related experience is required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN (KOREAN MARKET)
Minimum of three (3) month work related experience is required. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and Korean. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent Leadership with written and oral communication skills is necessary. Must have the ability to manage all aspects of the Front Office operations, including a Guest Relation, Call Center, and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to formulate Front Office Budget, monitor Profit and Loss. Must have the ability to set an upsell program and work as part of the Yield Management team in maximize revenue for the hotel. Must have computer knowledge on as Property Management System (PMS) - Opera. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of two (2) years hospitality experience. Must have the ability in providing hotel guests with above and beyond service to ensure their experience will be worth remembering. Must have cheerful personality in meeting guest upon arrival and bids them farewell as they leave. Must be able to make strong and accurate decisions, negotiations and problem solving skills. Must have cashiering experience and computer literacy. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
Minimum of five (5) years of I.T. industry experience and Bachelor's degree in IT related field required. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and Server Operating Systems, Microsoft application support, Opera System, SQL 2017 & Oracle database, MAS90 Accounting System, administration skills, Corporate Anti-virus software, Access database, Crystal Report XI and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Must have an experience of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, SPAM and Virus Firewall, IP Surveillance Systems, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support of Mitel IP Phone Systems, System backups and general network administration. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable. Should be knowledgeable in utilizing a hotel database. Must have a thorough working knowledge of web programming and systems analysis. Must have general management ability as well as specific knowledge of the company's computer/network systems. Must be able to communicate with all department heads in the company that require computer and network systems. Must be able to translate the requirements of each department into a workable computer operation. Must keep up with new developments in computers, Networking and (VOIP) voice over IP equipment. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business.

(1) LANDSCAPING SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years of related work experience in a similar role working at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. A High School diploma or higher is required. Must be able to utilize or operate landscaping tools and equipment. Previous experience in executing landscaping-related project is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) LAUNDRY SUPERVISOR
Closely coordinates with the Executive Housekeeper in the form of instructions as to overall functions, advice on non-routine problems encountered, or verbal and written work assignments. Minimum of two (2) years housekeeping supervisor experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self-starter with the ability to clean public areas, as required. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(2) LEAD COOK
Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) MUSICIAN
Minimum two (2) years experience as a musician; Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian; Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis; At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. May be subject to audition.

(1) NIGHT AUDITOR
Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience and academic background with major in Accounting Business knowledge on the basic functions of debits and credits. Knowledge on hotel-related systems particularly on front-office systems and point-of-sale systems of the hotel industry. Strong knowledge of Excel and must be knowledgeable in using Opera System and Micros System; Familiarity on how the hotel settlement system works (cash, room charge, credit card transaction or similar). Must be able to work from 11:00pm to 7:00am; May involve shift work, including working on weekends and holidays.

(1) PAINTER
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience as a painter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) PASTRY COOK
Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER
Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(2) PLUMBER
Minimum of five years related work experience; must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(3) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE CAPTAIN
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience working at a hotel in a similar role is required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Previous HAZMAT training is preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(3) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ROOM ATTENDANT
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) S.E.A SCHEDULER/CLUBMATE
Must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard with a minimum of three years of experience. Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have working knowledge of Microsoft Word and be proficient with Microsoft Excel, with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the S.E.A Scheduler. Applicants must be versed in the operations and rotations of the S.E.A department. Position will be asked to work various shifts in the hotels' waterpark, so sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred.

(1) RESERVATIONS COORDINATOR (KOREAN MARKET)
Minimum of three (3) years' experience working in Front Desk or Reservations for a hotel, preferably in hospitality; Must be able to use Microsoft Excel and hotel reservation system; Must be able to understand, speak, read, write English and Korean language. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(5) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 5, 2019.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 14

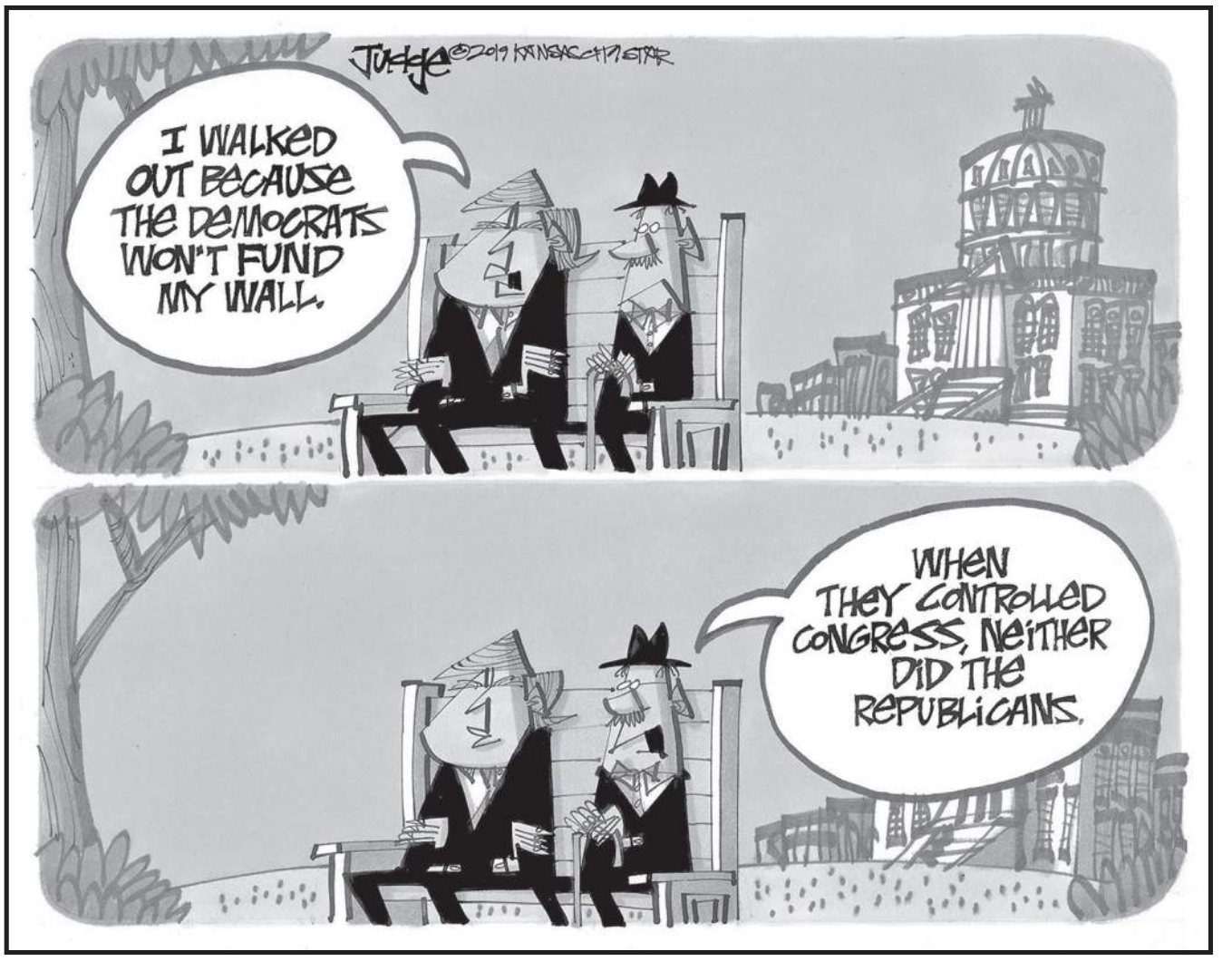
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Ditch the global gag rule once and for all

One of President Donald Trump's first misguided actions in office was to reinstate an antiabortion policy known colloquially as the "global gag rule." Under the rule, any foreign nongovernmental organization receiving U.S. aid for healthcare must agree not to spend any of its other funds — the money it does not receive from Washington — on abortion services or referrals for abortions. Organizations are even barred from counseling clients about abortion or advocating for abortion rights laws. Hence the "gag" rule.

It's an absurd restriction, given that Congress has long barred federal dollars from being spent on abortion, and all foreign recipients of U.S. aid must comply. Demanding that organizations must also accede to the gag rule — now dubbed "Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance" — puts foreign health organizations in the terrible position of either stopping abortion-related services in countries where poor women have a difficult time finding access to safe abortions or losing U.S. funding for other much needed health services (including, ironically, contraception).

But in recent weeks, there have been signs that Congress may be ready to roll back the global gag rule through its power over the federal purse.

Earlier this month, the newly Democratic-controlled House passed a package of spending bills, including one on foreign operations that sought to rein in the policy. That bill went nowhere, caught in the crossfire between President Trump and congressional Democrats over the border wall Trump covets. Notably, however, the House bill copied the language in the foreign operations spending bill that the Senate Committee on Appropriations unanimously approved last June, including a provision explicitly allowing abortion counseling by aid recipients.

Opponents of the gag rule contend that there is more bipartisan agreement than ever across the House and the Senate on repealing it. In the next few weeks, Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, will reintroduce a bill she offered in 2017 to permanently repeal the policy.

Unfortunately, Trump is unlikely to sign any measure containing a repeal of the global gag rule. Still, a bipartisan effort to repeal this harmful and unnecessary policy is worth pursuing. The policy was first established by the Reagan administration and has been alternately rescinded by Democratic presidents and reinstated by Republicans ever since. The Trump administration took things further, however, by extending the policy to far more health providers globally than ever before. When it was in effect under President George W. Bush, the gag rule applied only to about $575 million in foreign aid, and only to organizations doing family-planning work. Now it applies to about $8.8 billion in aid and covers organizations working on maternal and child health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS treatment, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases, among other concerns.

The State Department surveyed the effect of the new policy six months after it was adopted and found that 729

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China built a big, beautiful wall, too. It failed

By MICHAEL SCHUMAN
Bloomberg News

Michael Schuman, who is based in Beijing, is the author of "The Miracle: The Epic Story of Asia's Quest for Wealth" *and* "Confucius and the World He Created."

From the moment he launched his campaign for president, Donald Trump compared the barrier he wanted to build along the U.S. southern border to China's Great Wall. With the U.S. government now shuttered by the standoff over funding Trump's wall, both he and his Democratic opponents might want to take a closer look at the Chinese fortification — and why exactly it failed.

The Great Wall visited by tourists today is the handiwork of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and was primarily constructed in the mid-to-late 16th century. The common perception is that the wall was conceived as a single, massive infrastructure project to protect China's tumultuous northern border from foreign invaders. It was nothing of the sort. The Great Wall was built to a great degree by default, by a political system too paralyzed by infighting to come up with anything better.

Border security had been a preoccupation of China's imperial court from its earliest days. "Barbarians" from the northern steppe — whether Xiongnu, Turk, Jurchen, Mongol or other — routinely threatened the Middle Kingdom. Some, such as Genghis Khan's Mongols in the 13th century, managed to overrun the entire empire.

The long northern boundary ran through inhospitable terrain that made it difficult to defend. Chinese emperors had tried a variety of methods to secure the border, from buying off the barbarians to mounting massive military expeditions against them. The problem would always return when a new batch of tribesmen appeared across the frontier.

The Ming Dynasty compounded the usual difficulties of securing the border with a combination of arrogance, division and indecision. The Ming court was an especially raucous place where hostile factions were almost constantly at each other's throats. The border issue often got dragged into these contests for palace power.

Generally, the Ming, having reclaimed the empire from Genghis Khan's descendants, leaned towards a tough line against their northern neighbors, often denying them the opportunity to trade with China. The Mongols were dependent on such trade for the grain and other supplies they needed to survive on the inhospitable steppe. So they were left little choice but to launch raids into China to plunder what they needed. The attacks both hardened opinion in China against the Mongol tribes and heightened the urgency for more border security.

The fractured Ming court groped for a solution. Some officials advocated a more diplomatic approach that would restore trade and alleviate the pressure on the Mongols to raid. They were usually shouted down by more hawkish mandarins who thought such policies smacked of appeasement. The latter argued that Mongol requests for trade relations were just a ploy by the untrustworthy barbarians to lull the Chinese into a vulnerable complacency.

These hawks often favored military action to push the raiders away from the border. But, sending troops into the northern wastes to chase nomadic horsemen was costly, difficult to organize and widely unpopular. Proposals often got entangled in the arcane, personal intrigues between palace notables jockeying for imperial favor.

That seemed to leave the court with one option: building defensive barriers to keep the barbarians out. "Unwilling to trade with the Mongols, and unable to defeat them militarily, by the middle of the sixteenth century the Ming had no policy choice left but … to attempt to exclude the nomads by building walls," historian Arthur Waldron wrote in his exhaustive study "The Great Wall of China: From History to Myth."

The strategy proved effective in blunting Mongol raids — where walls were built. The problem was that the mobile horsemen could easily shift their assaults to undefended areas of the border. That's exactly what a large Mongol force did in 1550 when it penetrated to the Beijing suburbs. The response of the court was to build more walls. The Great Wall was the result of this haphazard defense policy.

The tragedy is that the Ming's big, beautiful wall failed to fulfill its sole mission: to protect China from invasion. The Ming were still tinkering with the massive structure when the dynasty collapsed in 1644. Amid the resulting chaos, a new steppe power, the Manchus, descended from the north, snatched Beijing and ruled as the Qing Dynasty.

Maybe the Manchu conquest was beyond repulse. A China divided was bound to fall. But, the Ming clearly contributed to their own catastrophe. A court environment that prioritizing defeating one's internal rivals over cooperating on policy stymied any hope of developing an effective solution to a serious prob-

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Starting a Business: Is an LLC or corporation right for you?

By JORDAN SUNDELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Starting a business? Great! It's an exciting time. But it's also a time packed with questions, hundreds of them, all demanding an answer now. A big one is what kind of business form to use. For help with that, keep reading.

Previously, I introduced the kinds of legal entities that you can choose for running your business. Those entity types were sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, and limited-liability companies. That article focused primarily on the first two. Now let's take a deeper look at the other two—corporations and LLCs.

The term "corporation" calls to mind globe-spanning companies like Apple, Toyota, and Exxon Mobil. But corporations are not limited to the titans of industry. In fact, most are owned and operated by people like you.

A corporation, unlike sole proprietorships and partnerships, is a legal entity separate from its owners. These owners are known as shareholders. Meanwhile, the corporation's day-to-day affairs are handled by directors with job titles like president, secretary, and treasurer. For small corporations, some or all of the shareholders are usually also the directors.

The biggest reason people create a corporation is to limit their liability. Unlike a sole proprietorship or partnership, owners have limited liability for the corporation's debts. In other words, if the corporation's business is going badly or it loses a pricey lawsuit, creditors can chase the corporation's assets but not the shareholders' personal assets. The only thing an owner loses is the time and money they invested in the corporation—nothing more.

Consider an example. Al and Bob want to open a coffee shop, the Pacific Café. They set up a corporation with themselves as both the shareholders and directors. They each kick in $10,000 and get a $50,000 loan, all of which is used to buy equipment and secure space. Business is good for a time and they pay back half of the loan plus their original investment, leaving a total debt of $25,000. But new coffee shops emerge, drying up the Café's profits. And then things get worse: A customer slips on a puddle during a rainstorm, badly hurting herself and leading to a $25,000 lawsuit. If the Café closes up shop, how much of its $50,000 debt are Al and Bob personally liable for? None—barring several exceptions that we'll address in a future article.

One of the prices for a corporation's limited liability is a heightened level of formality. Corporations need to issue stock, elect officers, and hold regular board and shareholder meetings. They also need to keep meetings of those minutes, follow the Commonwealth's statute governing corporations, and so on.

That brings us to everyone's favorite topic: tax. How a corporation is taxed depends on what kind of corporation you select. There are two flavors: S corporations and C corporations.

S corporations are treated like partnerships where profits and losses go straight to the shareholders and are reported on each shareholder's personal tax return. In this version, profits are only taxed once.

C corporations are different. They pay taxes on all profits and then shareholders pay tax on any money they receive from the corporation. This is often called double taxation.

If double taxation sounds unappealing, you have a variety of ways to soften the blow. One option is to pick our final entity choice—an LLC. LLCs share the best of sole proprietorships, partnerships, S corporations, and C corporations.

For one, LLCs enjoy limited liability just like an S or C corporation. Thus, generally speaking, owners of an LLC (known as members) are not personally liable for the LLC's debts.

For another, like a sole proprietorship, partnership, or an S corporation, LLCs do not pay income tax. Instead, the LLC's income "passes through" the business to each owner, who then pay tax on their personal tax return.

Careful readers will have noticed that LLCs and S corporations have limited liability and pay no income taxes. If so, you are probably wondering what's different between the two? Several things.

First, only U.S. citizens or residents can own an S corporation. But anyone can own an LLC.

Second, S corporations have to distribute profits according to the percentage of stock each owner holds. LLCs are more flexible; owners can distribute profits in whatever way they agree.

Third, S corporations need to closely follow corporate formalities to maintain limited-liability protections. LLCs generally just need to make sure that the management team agrees about major decisions.

And, fourth, S corporations cannot pass business debt to its shareholders unless the shareholder personally cosigned or guaranteed debt (not something I would recommend). LLCs, on the other hand, normally allow for debt to be passed through to its owners. Why does that matter? Because it can mean a nice tax break for the LLC owner.

So, what should you take away from this article? You have choices. But which choice is best will depend on several factors, ranging from those we've discussed like limiting liability and taxes to others we'll discuss in future articles.

To make the right choice, invest some time and money on the front to end to speak with both your attorney and accountant. That is doubly true if the business will have more than one owner. An hour of conversation now will pay for itself many times over in the months and years to follow.

Good luck.

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including Joint Marketing. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday.

CHINA

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lem. Emperors, coddled in luxurious palaces and lacking any real knowledge of conditions along the border, preferred looking tough on foreigners to compromise. Resistance to mutually beneficial trade deepened the causes of instability along the border. Treating those others across the frontier as bandits to be thwarted rather than poor people in need doomed Ming policy to failure.

Sound familiar? The ultimate lesson of the Great Wall of China is that a physical barrier, no matter how expensive and impressive, will fail if detached from a broader set of policies to alleviate the sources of insecurity along the border. The Ming never figured that out. Hopefully Washington's mandarins will.

DITCH

From Page 10

prior aid recipients had accepted the money and agreed to the new strings attached, while four had not. But even the State Department said it was too early at that point to gauge how broad the policy's reach is. In fact, the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that at least 1,300 organizations could be affected by the policy — nearly twice the number the State Department found.

For example, Family Health Options Kenya, a provider of sexual and reproductive health services, is part of the International Planned Parenthood Foundation, which refused to sign on to the policy. The Kenya organization closed one of its 14 clinics, cut staff at another and stopped outreach services to poor communities — reductions that affected more than 76,000 women and young girls by May 2018, the organization estimated. The outreach services affected include cervical cancer screenings, HIV testing and family planning counseling.

Or take Marie Stopes International, which says it has cut five mobile health and outreach teams across Uganda and slashed the number of outreach sites it visits in Zimbabwe from 1,200 to 600. The Marie Stopes organization, which uses non-U.S. dollars to provide safe abortions in three dozen countries, estimates that 1.4 million women in the countries it serves could lose access to contraception and other services by 2020.

Advocates predict that the effects could be increasingly devastating as time passes and groups have to apply for new or renewed funding.

Even the staunchest abortion opponents should be able to see that crippling these organizations' efforts to deliver crucial non-abortion healthcare services to underserved and desperately poor communities is cruel and harmful. The global gag rule should be repealed once and for all.

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Trump's family separation policy was even more cruel and widespread than we imagined

By SCOTT MARTELLE
Los Angeles Times

We knew that the Trump administration's policy of separating migrant children from their parents as a deterrent to others who might seek asylum in the United States was inhumane, poorly planned and disastrously executed. Now a new government report reveals that the pubic didn't know the half of it.

The incompetence is astounding.

Under a July 2018 court order that ended the separations and ordered family reunifications, the government counted 2,737 children separated from their parents. Most of those families have been reunited. But Thursday's report by the Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general found that record-keeping was so bad they have no way of knowing how many families actually were separated.

It also found that separations began well before Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced his "zero tolerance" policy, which called for all border crossers to be arrested even if they were exercising their legal right to seek asylum. Under that policy, once the parents were detained on misdemeanor charges of illegal entry, the children were taken away and treated as though they had arrived at the border unaccompanied by an adult. Yet the report found that the practice actually began the previous year, before the zero tolerance policy was supposedly put in place.

In fact, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the HHS division that takes custody of unaccompanied migrant minors, said minors separated from their parents by the government accounted for 3.6 percent of all unaccompanied minors it processed in August 2017 — up from 0.3 percent a year earlier.

ORR, though, only tracked the placements of the children informally, and has no definitive record of how many minors had been sent to shelters, to the custody of family or to other guardians in foster care.

"Officials estimate that thousands of separated children entered ORR care and were released prior to the June 26, 2018, court order," the report said. "Because the tracking systems in use at that time were informal and designed for operational purposes rather than retrospective reporting, ORR was unable to provide a more precise estimate or specific information about these children's placements (for example, whether the children were released to sponsors who were relatives, sponsors who were non-relatives, foster care, etc.)."

And even after making its report to the court, the government kept finding kids that it had separated from their parents who were not included in the initial count.

No one has been held accountable for this fiasco. Nevertheless, it's necessary to pause and focus on what this administration has done.

In the name of xenophobia, the Trump administration apprehended asylum-seeking families, hit the adults with trumped-up charges and jailed them, then stripped them of custody of their children, who were then packed off to detention centers or shelters until they could be placed with extended family members or friends or foster care, causing who knows what levels of psychological damage to the children.

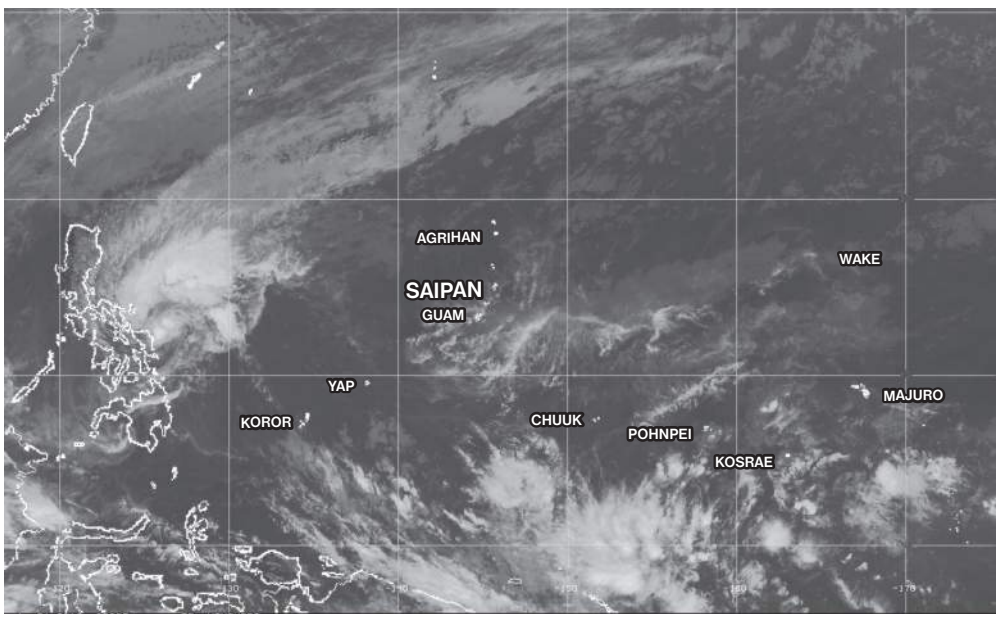
All because they had the audacity to ask for our help. That's atrocious.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:03 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers south of Guam with almost no showers within the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 18 to 25 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air, which then turn southeast through 10 thousand feet. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 9 feet composed mainly of a north swell and a combination of northeast trade-wind waves and swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	48° / 21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	64° / 57°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 69°
London	Mostly Sunny	43° / 30°
Los Angeles	Sunny	67° / 45°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 63°
Miami	Windy	73° / 70°
New York	Mostly Sunny	31° / 27°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	37° / 28°
Busan	Sunny	54° / 30°
Rome	Rain	46° / 36°
Salem	Sunny	53° / 47°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	57° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	43° / 16°
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 37°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	36° / 29°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:23 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.77
9:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.11
2:53 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13
7:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:29 AM	7:19 PM
Wednesday	-	8:25 AM	8:23 PM
Thursday	-	9:16 AM	9:24 PM
Friday	-	10:04 AM	10:22 PM
Saturday	-	10:49 AM	11:18 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

China's economic growth sinks to 3-decade low in 2018

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Use surveys, exit interviews to find out why employees are leaving

Q In the department I manage, we have recently experienced a sudden increase in turnover. What concerns me is that none of the supervisors knew that their employees were planning to leave.

I encourage supervisors to have monthly one-on-one meetings with employees, but this apparently isn't working as well as I had hoped. What can we do to make people open up to management?

A You seem distressed that your former employees never confessed their desire to depart. However, smart people don't tell management when they're considering other opportunities.

Instead of trying to ferret out secret job-search plans, you should determine what is motivating your employees to look elsewhere. For this purpose, you need some additional tools in your communication toolbox.

When people resign in the future, make it a practice to do exit interviews. Continue the supervisory one-on-ones, but add quarterly skip-level meetings in which you chat with each employee individually. Even if people are cautious with their comments, you may spot red flags if you listen carefully.

During these conversations, consider asking current staff members why they believe people have been choosing to leave. Employees are usually much more willing to discuss others' complaints than to reveal their own.

Finally, conduct an annual employee opinion survey using an experienced outside vendor. When people believe responses are confidential, they are much more likely to be open and honest. Then, once you have diagnosed the reasons for this turnover, you can begin to create some realistic retention plans.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q Our new manager is apparently having an affair with a young woman in our department. The two of them often disappear for hours at a time. This co-worker used to be pleasant and helpful, but lately she has become condescending and distant.

Everyone is upset about how our office atmosphere has changed, but no one will speak up. I seem to be the only person willing to address the issue, but I don't know how to do it diplomatically. Who should I talk to and what should I say?

A Manager-employee romances always create problems. Talking directly with the participants is pointless, since people in the throes of lust are seldom rational. And when one of them is your boss, the risk of retribution is high.

A better option is to find someone in upper management or human resources who can sit this new manager down for a frank talk about inappropriate workplace relationships. When you meet with that person, be sure to keep the tone calm and businesslike.

For example: "We are concerned about some recent developments in our group. There's a rumor that Mark and Beth are having a relationship outside of work. We don't know if that's true, but the two of them are often gone for hours, and Beth seems to have a different attitude. We're afraid to discuss this with Mark, so we hope you can help."

Even though your cautious colleagues would prefer to make you the sole spokesperson, they should also attend this meeting. When several people deliver the same message, management is much more likely to pay attention.

In this Jan. 17, 2019, photo, women take a selfie as others tour at the Yu Garden decorated with pig statues for Lunar New Year in Shanghai. AP

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic growth fell to a three-decade low in 2018 as business activity lagged amid a tariff war with Washington.

The world's second-largest economy expanded by 6.6 percent over a year earlier, down from 2017's 6.9 percent, official data showed Monday. Growth in the three months that ended in December cooled to 6.4 percent from the previous quarter's 6.5 percent.

Communist leaders are trying to steer China to slower, more self-sustaining growth based on consumer spending instead of trade and investment. But the slowdown has been sharper than expected, prompting Beijing to step up government spending and order banks to lend more to shore up growth and avoid politically dangerous job losses.

"Growth will remain under pressure in the coming months," Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics said in a report. "Key risks are the ongoing trade tension with the U.S. and that credit growth does not recover."

Economic activity held up through most of 2018 despite President Donald Trump's tariff hikes on Chinese imports in a fight over Beijing's technology ambitions. But exports contracted more sharply than forecast in December as the penalties began to depress demand.

Growth in 2018 was the lowest since 1990's 3.9 percent in the aftermath of the violent crackdown on pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square the year before.

Growth in investment, retail spending and factory activity all declined, the National Bureau of Statistics reported.

The slowdown is adding to pressure on President Xi Jinping's government to settle its dispute with Washington.

The two sides have imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 percent on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods in the fight over U.S. complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Washington is pressing China to roll back plans for state-led industry development that its trading partners say violate its market-opening obligations.

The dispute and news of job losses and falling sales of autos and real estate have rattled Chinese consumers. Some are cutting back on spending, which might worsen the downturn.

In a possible sign of progress, the Chinese government announced Friday that its top trade envoy, Vice Premier Liu He, will visit Washington for talks Jan. 30-31. Business groups and economists said a decision by Liu and his American counterpart, Robert Lighthizer, to get directly involved would suggest earlier talks by lower-level officials made progress.

Trump said Saturday that trade relations with China were "going very well" and "a deal could very well happen."

Forecasters expect growth to decline further this year to 6.3 percent or lower. They predict the decline will bottom out this year as Beijing's stimulus efforts gain traction. However, they have pushed back the time frame for that due to weakening exports.

Chinese leaders warned earlier any recovery would be "L-shaped," meaning companies and investors shouldn't expect growth to rebound to the previous decade's double-digit levels.

"A key downside risk to the Chinese growth outlook will be if the U.S.-China trade war escalates, should the temporary truce expire without any trade deal being struck," Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit said in an email.

Oxfam says world wealth gap widening, advocates fairer taxes

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—Wealth inequality around the world is "out of control" and doing particular harm to women, anti-poverty campaigner Oxfam warned Monday ahead of the annual gathering of business and political leaders in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

Oxfam, which has for years been trying to bring attention to the issue ahead of the World Economic Forum, said in a report that billionaire fortunes increased by 12 percent last year—the equivalent of $2.5 billion a day—while the 3.8 billion people who make up the world's poorest half saw their wealth decline by 11 percent.

"This is not inevitable, this is unacceptable," Winnie Byanyima, Oxfam International's executive director said in an interview with The Associated Press.

In the report, which is based on figures from Credit Suisse' Wealth Databook and Forbes' annual list of billionaires, Oxfam said the number of billionaires has almost doubled since the financial crisis a decade ago yet tax rates on the wealthy and corporations have fallen to their lowest levels in decades.

"While corporations and the super-rich enjoy low tax bills, millions of girls are denied a decent education and women are dying for lack of maternity care," Byanyima said.

Oxfam said making taxes fairer will help address many of the world's ills. It said getting the world's richest 1 percent to pay just 0.5 percent extra tax on their wealth could raise more money than it would cost to educate the 262 million children out of school, and provide lifesaving health care for 3.3 million people. It also suggested governments look again at taxes on wealth such as inheritance or property, which have been reduced or eliminated in much of the developed world and barely implemented in the developing world.

"Governments must now deliver real change by ensuring corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share of tax and investing this money in free health care and education that meets the needs of everyone—including women and girls whose needs are so often overlooked," said Byanyima.

Byanyima, who has been a regular participant at the Davos gathering, defended the organization's continued participation at the World Economic Forum despite mounting evidence of growing inequality.

Nation

At 30-day mark, shutdown logjam remains over border funding

AP

Internal Revenue Service employees, front row from the left, Brian Lanouette, of Merrimack, N.H., Mary Maldonado, of Dracut, Mass., and Maria Zangari, of Haverhill, Mass., display placards during a rally by federal employees and supporters, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in front of the Statehouse, in Boston, held to call for an end of the partial shutdown of the federal government.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thirty days into the partial government shutdown, Democrats and Republicans appeared no closer to ending the impasse Sunday than when it began, with President Donald Trump lashing out at his opponents after they dismissed a plan he'd billed as a compromise.

Trump had offered the previous day to temporarily extend protections for young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones in exchange for $5.7 billion for his border wall. But Democrats said the three-year proposal didn't go nearly far enough.

On Sunday, Trump branded House Speaker Nancy Pelosi a "radical" and said she was acting "irrationally." The president also tried to fend off criticism from the right, as conservatives accused him of embracing "amnesty" for immigrants in the country illegally.

"No, Amnesty is not a part of my offer," Trump tweeted, noting that he'd offered temporary, three-year extensions—not permanent relief. But he added: "Amnesty will be used only on a much bigger deal, whether on immigration or something else."

The criticism from both sides underscored Trump's boxed in-position as he tries to win at least some Democratic buy-in without alienating his base.

With hundreds of thousands of federal workers set to face another federal pay period without paychecks, the issue passed to the Senate, where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has agreed to bring Trump's proposal to the floor this week.

Democrats say there's little chance the measure will reach the 60-vote threshold usually required to advance legislation in the Senate. Republicans have a 53-47 majority, which means they need at least some Democrats to vote in favor.

McConnell has long tried to avoid votes on legislation that is unlikely to become law. And the Kentucky Republican has said for weeks that he has no interest in "show votes" aimed only at forcing members to take sides after Trump rejected the Senate's earlier bipartisan bill to avert the shutdown.

What's unclear is how McConnell will bring Trump's plan forward—or when voting will begin. The Republican leader is a well-known architect of complicated legislative maneuvers. One question is whether he would allow a broader immigration debate with amendments to Trump's plan on the Senate floor.

McConnell spokesman David Popp said Sunday, "When we have (a plan) we will be sure to let everyone know."

One key Republican, Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma, said that he and other lawmakers had been encouraging the White House to put an offer on the table—any offer—to get both sides talking.

"Get something out there the president can say, 'I can support this,' and it has elements from both sides, put it on the table, then open it up for debate," Lankford said on ABC's "This Week."

"The vote this week in the Senate is not to pass the bill, it is to open up and say 'Can we debate this? Can we amend it? Can we make changes?'" Lankford said. "Let's find a way to be able to get the government open because there are elements in this that are clearly elements that have been supported by Democrats strongly in the past."

"The president really wants to come to an agreement here. He has put offers on the table," said Rep Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., on NBC's "Meet the Press." "The responsible thing for the Democrats to do is put a counteroffer on the table if you don't like this one."

Teen in confrontation with Native American: I didn't provoke

DETROIT (AP)—The student who stared and smiled at an elderly Native American protester drumming in his face outside the Lincoln Memorial as his schoolmates chanted and laughed says he did nothing to provoke the man in the videotaped confrontation and was only trying to calm the situation.

The student identified himself in an email statement Sunday evening as junior Nick Sandmann of Covington Catholic High School in a northern Kentucky suburb of Cincinnati. An official working with the family confirmed Sandmann's identity, speaking on condition of anonymity because the source didn't want to distract from the statement.

Videos posted of the confrontation drew wide criticism on social media. "I am being called every name in the book, including a racist, and I will not stand for this mob-like character assassination of my family's name," wrote Sandmann, who added that he and his parents have received death threats since video of Friday's confrontation emerged.

Both Sandmann and Nathan Phillips say they were trying to defuse tensions that were rising among three groups on a day Washington hosted both the March for Life and the Indigenous Peoples March. But video of Sandmann standing very close to Phillips, staring and at times smiling at him as Phillips sang and played a drum, gave many who watched it a different impression. Other students appeared to be laughing at the drummer; and at least one could be seen on video doing a tomahawk chop.

The dueling accounts emerged Sunday as the nation picked apart footage from dozens of cellphones that recorded the incident on Friday in Washington amid an increasingly divided political climate fueled by a partial government shutdown over immigration policy.

Phillips had approached Sandmann, but well before that, both his group and Sandmann's, which had taken part in the anti-abortion rally, were confronted by a third group that appeared to be affiliated with the Black Hebrew Israelite movement.

Videos show members of the religious group yelling disparaging and profane insults at the students, who taunt them in return. Video also shows the Native Americans being insulted by the small religious group.

Sandmann wrote that the students were called "racists," ''bigots," ''white crackers" and "incest kids" by the third group. He said a teacher chaperone gave the students permission to begin their school chants "to counter the hateful things that were being shouted at our group."

One of those chants, however, is what led Phillips and Marcus Frejo, a member of the Pawnee and Seminole tribes, to approach the youths.

It was a haka — a war dance of New Zealand's indigenous Maori culture, made famous by the country's national rugby team. Frejo, who is also known as Chief Quese Imc, told the AP in a phone interview that he felt the students were mocking the dance.

Phillips, an activist described by the Indian Country Today website as an Omaha elder and Vietnam War veteran, said in an interview with The Associated Press that he was trying to keep peace between the high school students and the religious group.

He said he heard people chanting "Build that wall" or yelling, "Go back to the reservation." At one point, he said, he sought to ascend to the Lincoln statue and "pray for our country." Some students backed off, but one student wouldn't let him move, he added.

"They were making remarks to each other ... (such as) 'In my state those Indians are nothing but a bunch of drunks.' How do I report that?" Phillips said. "These young people were just roughshodding through our space, like what's been going on for 500 years here — just walking through our territories, feeling like 'this is ours.'"

Deputies shoot man after he kills 4, including baby daughter

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A rural Oregon man killed four members of his family at the home they shared and was shot by sheriff's deputies as he tried to kill a girl, authorities said.

Mark Leo Gregory Gago, 42, killed his parents, his girlfriend and their infant daughter Saturday night before deputies shot him, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said.

The victims were not shot, The Oregonian reported . Sheriff's Office Sgt. Brian Jensen said the causes of death will be investigated.

"We're not sure what was used at this time," Jensen told reporters near the scene Sunday. "I've been told that there were numerous weapons, swords, things of that nature in the residence. The investigators are trying to determine what exactly was used to kill each person."

The sheriff's office identified the victims as Olivia Gago, 9 months, Shaina Sweitzer, 31, Jerry Bremer, 66, and Pamela Bremer, 64.

The home is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Portland and northeast of the city of Woodburn.

The sheriff's office took an emergency call from a resident of a home at about 10:15 p.m. Saturday. The caller described a violent and hectic scene, Jensen said. Arriving deputies found a "horrific" situation, Jensen said.

"I've talked to investigators, 20-year veterans, and they're saying this is a shocking scene," Jensen said.

They found a woman dead outside the home and Gago attacking the child. The 8-year-old child was Sweitzer's daughter from a previous relationship.

A roommate also survived. She suffered what deputies described as injuries that did not appear to be life-threatening. She was being treated at a hospital.

Gago had been arrested in August on a weapons charge. Jensen said by email that Gago was booked on a charge of unlawful possession of a weapon. He did not have details on the circumstances of the arrest or disposition of the case.

Asia

Filipino Muslims vote in referendum on autonomous region

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslims in the southern Philippines voted Monday in a referendum on a new autonomous region that seeks to end nearly half a century of unrest, in what their leaders are touting as the best alternative to a new wave of Islamic State group-inspired militants.

The vote caps a tumultuous peace effort by the government in Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main rebel group, to seal a deal that was signed in 2014 but languished in the Philippine Congress until it was finally approved last year. Bloodshed including the siege of Marawi city by IS-linked militants and other bombings and attacks in the south threatened to derail it.

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, chairman of the Moro rebels, has repeatedly said that the creation of a viable Muslim autonomous region is the best antidote to about half a dozen smaller IS-linked radical groups that remain a threat in Mindanao, the homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

"We can roughly conclude that all these splinter groups are a result of the frustration with the peace process," Murad said in July, when President Rodrigo Duterte signed the legislation creating the new region, called Bangsamoro.

Under the deal, the rebels gave up their goal of an independent state in exchange for broad autonomy, although they originally wanted a federal unit with more powers. Their 30,000 to 40,000 fighters are to be demobilized. Murad has appealed to the international community to contribute to a trust fund to be used to finance the insurgents' transition from decades of waging one of Asia's longest rebellions.

Centuries of conquest—first by Spanish and American colonial forces that had ruled the Philippine archipelago followed by Filipino Christian settlers—have gradually turned Muslims into a minority group in Mindanao, triggering conflict over land, resources and sharing of political power. Uprisings seeking self-rule have been brutally suppressed, feeding more resentment. Insecurity is fueled by proliferation of weapons and armed groups that have resorted to ransom kidnappings and extortion for survival, such as the brutal Abu Sayyaf, which is not part of any peace process.

Bangsamoro replaces an existing poverty-wracked autonomous region with a larger, better-funded and more powerful entity. An annual grant, estimated at $1.3 billion, is to be set aside to bolster development.

Western governments have welcomed the autonomy pact. They worry that small numbers of IS-linked militants from the Middle East and Southeast Asia could forge an alliance with Filipino insurgents and turn the south into a breeding ground for extremists.

In 2017, Philippine troops backed by U.S. and Australian surveillance aircraft routed the militants who occupied Marawi for five months in battles that left more than 1,200 people, mostly Islamic fighters, dead and the mosque-studded city in ruins. Overall, the conflict has left about 150,000 people dead over several decades and stunted development in the resource-rich but underdeveloped southern region that is the country's poorest.

AP
A Muslim woman casts her vote in a referendum in Maguindanao province, southern Philippines, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

ASIAN BRIEFS

World's oldest man, 113, dies at his home in northern Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The world's oldest man has died at his home—a hot springs inn—in northern Japan at the age of 113. Masazo Nonaka died in the early hours of Sunday while sleeping at home in Ashoro on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido, his family said. He died peacefully from natural causes, according to his granddaughter Yuko Nonaka. The supercentenarian, whose family has run a hot springs inn for four generations, was certified by Guinness World Records in April 2018 as the world's oldest living man at 112 years and 259 days. Born on July 25, 1905, Nonaka grew up in a large family and succeeded his parents running the inn. The 106-year-old inn is now run by his granddaughter Yuko. She said her grandfather appeared to be as usual until her elder sister noticed he was not breathing. He was pronounced dead by his family doctor. "He didn't have any health problem. ... He went peacefully and that's at least our consolation," she said.

Graham says he'll ask Trump to meet Pakistan, Afghan leaders

ISLAMABAD (AP)—U.S. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said on Sunday that he will urge President Donald Trump to meet with the leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan so that they can devise a plan to end Afghanistan's 17-year war, the U.S.'s longest military engagement. Graham spoke at a news conference in Islamabad after meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has previously faced criticism for suggesting peace talks should include the Taliban. "I think they will hit it off" if they meet as they have "similar personalities," said Graham of the proposed meeting between Trump and Khan. Graham added that the war in Afghanistan "will end through reconciliation" but that no such talks should include the Islamic State group or al-Qaida. Graham said he would also urge Washington to reach a free trade agreement with Pakistan, a proposal which could be a game changer for Islamabad.

US, South Korean diplomats attending NKorea talks in Sweden

HELSINKI (AP)—Sweden said Sunday diplomats from South Korea and the U.S. will attend "small-format" talks in the Nordic country with a North Korean colleague along with "a small group of international experts." Swedish Foreign Ministry spokesman Buster Mirow Emitslof told The Associated Press that Lee Do-hoon of South Korea and Steve Biegun, U.S. special envoy for North Korea negotiations, will meet with North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, who arrived Friday in Sweden. The talks are hosted by the Swedish government and SIPRI, or the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, an independent think-thank focused on research on conflicts, armaments and arms control. The ministry disclosed no venue or schedule of the meeting, including whether it has officially started. Swedish news agency TT said the talks are taking place at a conference center on Lake Malaren northwest of Stockholm, lasting until Jan. 22.

US peace envoy: Washington wants to see peace in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said on Saturday that Washington was ready to "address legitimate concerns" of all Afghan sides in order to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Since being appointed in September, Khalilzad has met with all sides, including the Taliban, Afghan officials and Pakistan's political and military leadership in efforts aimed at finding a negotiated end to America's longest war in neighboring Afghanistan.

The Taliban currently control nearly half of Afghanistan, and are more powerful than at any time since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Khalilzad took to Twitter on Saturday saying: "I see that many are concerned that the United States is willing to both talk and fight. Let me be clear: the US wants #peace."

He said it was urgent that fighting ends in Afghanistan but "pursuing peace still means we fight as needed."

Khalilzad is currently on a visit to Islamabad and has met with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and the country's powerful army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa to discuss how to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Khalilzad in his latest tweet apparently responded to his critics, as he spent the third day of his visit in Pakistan hoping for a breakthrough in his peace efforts.

Khalilzad met with the Taliban last month in the United Arab Emirates, with Saudi, Pakistani and Emirati officials also participating.

Kabul sent a delegation to the UAE but it did not take part in the talks at the time.

Reports in Pakistani media suggest that efforts are under way by Pakistan to give a boost to the peace process by inviting the Taliban to Pakistan.

A day before, Khalilzad briefed Pakistani leaders on his recent engagements in the region for an Afghan peace and reconciliation process.

Pakistani leaders say they support for a peace process, which has suffered a setback because of the Taliban's persistent refusal to directly talk to the Afghan government in Kabul.

However, Washington hopes that Pakistan can help end the conflict.

Islamabad says its influence on the Taliban is overstated but it will do whatever is possible for peace.

Khalilzad has accelerated his peace efforts in recent weeks amid reports that the U.S. is planning to begin withdrawing its troops in the summer.

U.S President Donald Trump has expressed his frustration with the progress of the war, even chastising his generals, telling his Cabinet earlier this month that "they didn't do such a good job in Afghanistan."

World

May plans next move in Brexit fight as chances rise of delay

LONDON (AP)—As Prime Minister Theresa May prepared her next move in Britain's deadlocked Brexit battle, a senior opposition politician said Sunday that it's unlikely the U.K. will leave the European Union as scheduled on March 29.

A government minister, however, warned that failure to deliver on Brexit would betray voters and unleash a "political tsunami."

May is due to present Parliament with a revised Brexit plan on Monday, after the divorce deal she had struck the EU was rejected by lawmakers last week. With just over two months until Britain is due to leave the bloc, some members of Parliament are pushing for the U.K. to delay its departure until the country's divided politicians can agree on a way forward.

Labour Party Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer said "it's inevitable" Britain will have to ask the EU to extend the two-year countdown to exit that ends on March 29.

"The 29th of March is 68 days away," Starmer told the BBC. "We are absolutely not prepared for it. It would be catastrophic."

Britain's political impasse over Brexit is fueling concerns that the country may crash out of the EU on March 29 with no agreement in place to cushion the shock. That could see tariffs imposed on goods moving between Britain and the EU, sparking logjams at ports and shortages of essential supplies. Many economists expect Britain to plunge into recession if there is a "no-deal" Brexit.

AP

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street, in London, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

May's government is split between ministers who think a disorderly departure must be avoided at all costs, and Brexit-backers who believe it would be preferable to delaying or reversing Brexit.

Former Brexit secretary Dominic Raab, who quit the government in opposition to May's agreement with the EU, said a no-deal Brexit would have "short-term risks," but they would be "manageable."

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that "failure to deliver Brexit would produce a yawning gap between Parliament and the people, a schism in our political system with unknowable consequences."

He said public anger could trigger "a political tsunami."

May has spent the days since her deal was thrown out meeting government and opposition lawmakers in an attempt to find a compromise. But the talks have produced few signs that May plans to make radical changes to her deal, or to lift her insistence that Brexit means leaving the EU's single market and customs union.

Fox said one possible solution could be to strike a deal with the Irish government guaranteeing there would be no border controls between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

He said that could ease concerns about the deal's most contentious measure—an insurance policy known as the "backstop" that would keep Britain in an EU customs union to maintain an open Irish border after Brexit. Pro-Brexit lawmakers worry that Britain could be trapped indefinitely in the arrangement, bound to EU trade rules and unable to strike new deals around the world.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, however, tweeted that the Irish government was committed to the entire withdrawal deal, "including the backstop."

British lawmakers who want a softer Brexit are preparing to try to amend May's plans in a Jan. 29 debate, and to use parliamentary rules to try to prevent a no-deal Brexit and take control of the exit process.

Conservative lawmaker Nicky Morgan said she and several opposition colleagues planned to introduce a bill to ensure "that if the prime minister can't get an agreement approved by the House of Commons by the end of February," the U.K. will ask the EU to postpone its departure date "so that we can build a consensus and get ourselves more prepared for Brexit. "

Delaying Brexit would require approval from the 27 other EU nations.

Starmer said there was a roadblock in the way of a solution to the Brexit crisis, "and that roadblock is the prime minister."

"Her mind is closed," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Qaida-linked jihadists kill 10 UN peacekeepers in Mali

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked jihadists carried out one of the deadliest attacks on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in months, killing 10 peacekeepers and wounding at least 25 in northern Mali, the U.N. said Sunday. All of the peacekeepers killed in the assault on their camp in Aguelhoc were from Chad, the U.N. secretary-general's spokesman said in a statement. He strongly condemned the attack, saying it may constitute a war crime. Peacekeepers "responded robustly and a number of assailants were killed," the statement said. Residents said the attackers in the Sunday morning assault arrived in motorcycles and cars. The 15,000-strong peacekeeping mission in Mali, established in 2013, is one of the U.N.'s deadliest. The West African nation is under threat from a number of extremist groups affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State organization, and attacks have moved from the arid north to more populated central Mali.

Zimbabwe president to return home after deadly turmoil

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's president announced on Sunday that he will return home and skip the World Economic Forum after a week of turmoil in which activists have said at least a dozen people have been killed in a government crackdown. President Emmerson Mnangagwa had been under growing pressure to come home from a two-week overseas visit as accounts emerged of abuses by security forces, including dozens of people wounded by gunfire and others hunted down in their homes and severely beaten. Zimbabwe has seen days of unrest since Mnangagwa made an announcement more than doubling fuel prices that made the struggling country's gasoline the most expensive in the world. Mnangagwa in his Twitter post didn't mention the violence, saying only that he is returning "in light of the economic situation." The first priority, he said, "is to get Zimbabwe calm, stable and working again."

Kenyan police say attack on Chinese facilities is repelled

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenyan police say gunmen opened fire on Chinese construction facilities in an eastern area, days after Islamic extremists claimed responsibility for a deadly attack in Nairobi. National police chief Joseph Boinnet says security forces fought off the attackers at Shimbirey near Garissa town on Sunday. There are no reports of casualties. Al-Shabab, an extremist group linked to al-Qaida and based in Somalia, claimed responsibility for a 2015 attack in Garissa that killed 147 people, mostly students. Al-Shabab also says it carried out the Jan. 15 attack at a hotel and office complex in Nairobi that killed 21 people, including a police officer. All five assailants also died.

Death toll reaches 85 in Mexico fuel pipeline fire horror

TLAHUELILPAN, Mexico (AP)—People in the town where a gasoline explosion killed at least 85 people say the section of pipeline that gushed fuel has been a habitual gathering site for thieves, repeatedly damaged and patched like a trusty pair of jeans.

"It was the popular tap," said Enrique Cerron, 22, who lives near the field. "You could pass by at 11 or 12 in the morning and see people filling up here."

On Friday, amid countrywide fuel shortages at gas stations as the government attempts to stem widespread fuel theft, this particular section of pipeline had come back into service after being offline for nearly four weeks when somebody punctured the line again. Word quickly spread through the community of 20,000 people that gas was flowing. Come one, come all.

Hundreds showed up at the spigot, carrying plastic jugs and covering their faces with bandanas. A few threw rocks and swung sticks at soldiers who tried to shoo them away. Some fuel collectors brought their children along.

Tlahuelilpan is a largely agrarian community located 90 minutes by car from the capital and just 8 miles (13 kilometers) from the state-run Tula oil refinery. It's surrounded by verdant alfalfa fields and power plant stacks, and is reasonably affluent by rural Mexican standards. Hidalgo state data shows about half the community lives in moderate poverty, in line with the national average.

At first the gasoline leak was manageable, locals say, emitting a tame fountain of fuel that allowed for filling small buckets at a time. But as the crowd swelled to more than 600, people became impatient.

That's when a man rammed a piece of rebar into a patch, according to Irma Velasco, who lives near the alfalfa field where the explosion took place, and gasoline shot 20 feet (6 meters) into the air, like water from a geyser.

A carnival atmosphere took over. Giddy adults soaked in gasoline filled jugs and passed them to runners. Families and friends formed human chains and guard posts to stockpile containers with fuel.

For nearly two hours, more than a dozen soldiers stood guard on the outskirts of the field, warning civilians not to go near. Officials say the soldiers were outnumbered and their instructions were to not intervene. Only a week earlier, people in a different town had beaten some soldiers who tried to stop them from gorging on state-owned fuel.

The lure of free fuel was irresistible for many: They came like moths to a flame, parking vehicles on a nearby road.

The smell of gas grew stronger and stronger as thousands of barrels spewed. Those closest to the gusher apparently became delirious, intoxicated by fumes. Townspeople stumbled about. The night filled with an eerie mist, a mixture of cool mountain air and fine particles of gasoline.

Velasco said she rushed to aid a man she saw staggering along the road and away from the gusher. She removed his gas-drenched clothes to help alleviate the overwhelming stench of toxic fuel. Then she helped another young man, who described to her how the geyser had erupted.

Cerron was at the heart of the mayhem when he sensed mounting danger.

He pulled a 70-year-old man out of a ditch where gasoline was pooling; the man had passed out from the vapors. Then Cerron, a student, decided it was time to go home.

"They looked like zombies trying to get all that gasoline out," says Cerron.

He passed soldiers warning would-be scavengers to stay away. It's going to explode, they said. And it did. Once home, Cerron turned for one last glance at the gusher. Instead he saw flames.

Focus

Americans take stock of shutdown's everyday effects

By JENNIFER PELTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 photo, U.S. Coast Guard Culinary Specialist Jerry Wright, right, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Lauren Laughlin, second from right, stack boxes of donated cereal at a pop-up food pantry created at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. The pantry was created by local Coast Guard-related advocacy groups to help hundreds of civilian and non-civilian Coast Guard employees to help makes ends meet during the partial federal government shutdown. AP

You and your loved ones aren't federal employees or contractors, and you don't live in a setting or have a job closely tied to government programs. So what does the government shutdown have to do with you?

More than you might think. Washington's doings, or not-doings, can be woven into everyday American life from a bowl of breakfast cereal to a bottle of beer after work.

The budget standoff between President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats is rippling into some unexpected places.

Like Carmen Bush's cellphone.

It's being deluged with telemarketing calls, but she can't get added to the National Do Not Call Registry. It is unavailable during the stalemate.

"It's turning into an every-15-minute reminder that the government is shut down," the Oakland, California, high school English teacher says.

"I feel bad because I know so many other people are being affected by the shutdown in so many more devastating ways, but this is just one way that didn't even cross my mind."

Here's a look at some more ways:

ON YOUR PLATE

Caitlin Hilbert was enjoying some poke, the Hawaiian marinated raw fish dish, last week when the shutdown made her stop chewing.

It occurred to her that the Food and Drug Administration, which oversees seafood safety, had suspended routine inspections.

The agency said last Monday it was bringing workers back to resume checks of seafood and other "high-risk" items. Still, the moment made Hilbert reflect on the links between Washington and her life in San Mateo, California.

"I want to be able to consume food without worry," the college student and illustrator says.

The FDA oversees about three-quarters of the food supply, from fresh vegetables to dry cereal. The agency conducts about 8,400 domestic-food inspections a year, about a third involving "high-risk" food.

The agency said some checks—on imported food, for instance—have continued through the shutdown; so have U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections of meat and poultry.

To be sure, inspectors don't normally examine every morsel Americans eat, and plenty of food is safe.

"The odds that you, as a consumer, will go in and pick up a box of food that was affected by the shutdown are low," says Sarah Sorscher, deputy director of regulatory affairs at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a food safety advocacy group. "But particularly as the shutdown goes on, the chances increase that someone in America is going to get sick who wouldn't have gotten sick, because of the shutdown."

THE COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT

After enduring past shutdowns as a federal worker, Atlanta retiree David Swan hoped he wouldn't feel the effects of this one.

Then he tried to look at an identity theft complaint he filed with the Federal Trade Commission in 2017, after his personal information was compromised in a data breach and he learned that someone checked into a hotel under his name.

Swan recently got an email saying his FTC account would be deactivated if he didn't log in, but the system is offline because of the shutdown. (The commission does say accounts aren't being deactivated in the meantime.)

"The process of keeping the government open and keeping the government running should not be compromised for partisan politics," he says.

IN THE LUNCHROOM

The shutdown is showing up in school cafeterias in North Carolina's rural Vance County, which plans to start paring student lunches this week.

Fresh produce will be nixed in middle and high schools and reduced in elementary schools, and lunchrooms will stop offering bottled water and juice, among other changes announced in a Facebook post this week. Ice cream will be gone, too.

The USDA assures that school lunch programs have funding through the end of March. But the Vance County school system said it's trying "to conserve food and funding" in a district where most students come from families with incomes low enough to qualify them for free or reduced-price lunch. Federal money pays for 95 percent of its school nutrition program.

"All indications are that as far as food supply and funding, we are OK through March. But beyond that, we really don't know," so administrators want to stretch what they have, spokeswoman Terri Hedrick said.

The USDA said in a statement Thursday that officials "understand that the current lapse in appropriations creates uncertainty for the future," but they're hopeful the budget stalemate will end soon.

IN TAX TANGLES

Tax Day isn't until April, but some of Mindy Schwartz' accounting clients are anxious to contact the IRS now. They've gotten notices citing issues with past returns and saying the clients owe money.

Normally, Schwartz calls up a special Internal Revenue Service number for tax professionals to get to the bottom of notices like this. But the line is now answered only by a message saying help "is not available at this time."

Help may be on the way: The IRS said was recalling about 46,000 of its employees, over half its workforce, as the official start of tax season approaches Jan. 28. The agency said workers would start staffing some phone lines "in the coming days."

For the moment, Schwartz's concerned clients can only ponder whether to wait to get through, and perhaps risk penalties and interest, or pay what the IRS says they owe, even if they believe there's an error.

"Getting communications from the IRS tends to freak people out, so when you can't get them an answer, it gets a little scary," says Schwartz, of Carlsbad, California.

AT THE AIRPORT

Jennifer Lyon-Weisman isn't a worrier by nature. But she headed for the airport in Columbus, Ohio, over three hours before her Friday afternoon flight.

She lives only 15 minutes away, but she didn't want to take chances on her annual trip to a fundraising music festival in New Jersey. She'd heard reports of long lines and closed checkpoints at some airports, starting last weekend, after absenteeism spiked among now-unpaid federal security screeners.

The sick-out rate has eased a bit, and the Transportation Security Agency said less than 6 percent of flyers nationwide waited more than 14 minutes in checkpoint lines as of Thursday.

But with a holiday weekend likely to boost crowds, Lyon-Weisman was concerned.

"And then I feel guilty because people aren't being paid, and it's a really small problem," said Lyon-Weisman, a barber.

In the end, the airport crowds were light and screening went swiftly, she said.

While security screeners and air traffic controllers have been told to keep working, Federal Aviation Administration safety inspectors weren't, until the agency began recalling some Jan. 12.

About 2,200 of the more than 3,000 inspectors are now on the job, overseeing work done by airlines, aircraft manufacturers and repair shops. The government says they're doing critical work but forgoing such tasks as issuing new pilot certificates.

Meanwhile, passengers will probably have to wait a bit longer to check out Delta's newest jet model, a 109-seater the airline says has "among the widest seats" among single-aisle planes. CEO Ed Bastian said the Jan. 31 launch date will likely be pushed back because of certification delays amid the shutdown.

ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Some college students and their families are also contending with shutdown woes as they try to get tax information for financial aid applications.

With IRS phone lines and offices closed, some have struggled to get verification and documents they need to apply. The shutdown doesn't affect the aid itself, but the Department of Education acknowledges that some "systems and processes depend on information from_and actions taken by_other federal agencies, several of which are currently closed."

Reynold Verret, the president of Xavier University of Louisiana, says some students at his Catholic, historically black New Orleans school have been caught up in the quandary.

"We're not exceptional. Every university in the United States right now is probably facing that, as well," he said.

FROM THE TAP

Money isn't the only thing that's not flowing during the shutdown. Some craft breweries are postponing new beer releases or expansions because they need permission from a federal agency that isn't open.

Such breweries tend to offer new seasonal and special brews frequently, and new beer labels need the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's approval to be sold across state lines.

Milwaukee-based Lakefront Brewery, for one, has upcoming cherry lager and apple ale releases that could be delayed while it waits for the label-approval process to resume. Some other breweries have new locations idling while waiting for permits from the bureau.

"To me, it kind of drives home to everybody what's all happening and how many people are affected," says Russ Klisch, Lakefront's founder and president. "The government does touch everyone's life, one way or another."

Overdrive

TNS
2019 Optima SX.

AUTO REVIEW:

Kia updates midsize Optima sedan for 2019 with design tweaks, new technology features

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Kia's midsize Optima sedan got an exterior and interior "freshening" for 2019, the first key changes since the gasoline-only models moved into their fourth generation for 2016 and the hybrid versions arrived in their second generation for 2017.

There are four gasoline-only trim levels for 2019, starting with the LX 2.4 ($22,900, plus $920 freight), followed by the S 2.4 ($24,900), EX 1.6 Turbo ($26,800), and the top-of-the-line SX 2.0 Turbo ($31,900), which we tested for this report.

For 2019, there are two hybrid models: the base EX for $27,985 plus $920 freight, and the EX PHEV — plug-in electric hybrid — for $35,290.

The PHEV model's hybrid battery pack can be connected to an external power source for recharging, which means that it can run on electric power alone if the battery is kept charged and isn't allowed to run down. If the battery does run down, though, the PHEV can continue going on its gasoline engine, just like the regular EX hybrid. The plug-in model was added to the hybrid lineup for 2017.

Three gasoline engines are available in the gas-only models, beginning with a normally aspirated 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder, standard in the LX and S models, with 185 horsepower and 178 foot-pounds of torque. This engine is connected to a six-speed automatic transmission.

EX models get a turbocharged 1.6-liter inline four-cylinder with 178 horsepower and 195 foot-pounds of torque, mated with a seven-speed, dual-clutch performance automatic transmission.

Our SX model came with the most-powerful engine option: a turbocharged 2.0-liter inline four-cylinder rated at 245 horsepower and 260 foot-pounds of torque. It's paired with a different six-speed automatic transmission.

The hybrids have a 2.0-liter, 154-horsepower four-cylinder gasoline engine, coupled with a 50-horsepower electric motor in the standard model, or a 66-horsepower motor in the plug-in version.

Total combined output of the engine and electric motor is 192 horsepower and 271 foot-pounds of torque in the base hybrid, and 202 horsepower and 276 foot-pounds of torque in the PHEV.

EPA ratings for the gasoline models are 25 mpg city/35 highway/29 combined (LX); 24/33/27 (S); 27/37/31 (EX); and 21/30/24 (SX).

Hybrid EPA ratings are 39 city/45 highway/41 combined for the base hybrid, and 38/43/40 for the PHEV, which has a 29-mile range on battery power alone.

As for the 2019 changes, the Optima got some new design features inside and out, but not enough to qualify it as a new generation. It also received expanded Advanced Driver Assistance Systems technology, new UVO infotainment options, and available European-inspired red and black two-tone sport leather-trimmed seats (standard on the SX),

There are also new alloy wheel choices, ambient LED interior lighting, and a new Passion Red exterior color. Our SX model came with a Sparkling Silver exterior and black interior (except for the two-tone seats), and 18-inch alloy wheels.

LX models get new Kia Stinger-inspired LED daytime running lights, new 16-inch alloy wheels and a matte gray grill.

S — or Sport — models now have projector-beam fog lights, LED taillights, dual exhaust, sport side sills with gloss-black trim, a gloss-black grill, and 18-inch alloy wheels. They also come with a smart key with pushbutton start, smart trunk, and power front windows with auto up/down.

Besides the 1.6-liter turbo engine and dual-clutch transmission, the EX now has an adaptive Smart Shift drive mode; new leather seats with front-seat heaters; new 17-inch alloy wheels; Smart Cruise Control with Stop-and-Go; and the fog lights, LED taillights and dual exhaust from the S model. Options include multicolor interior lighting and a heated steering wheel.

SX models can be dressed up further with the SX Limited Package ($3,800, not included on our tester), which adds 18-inch Dark Satin alloy wheels with P235/45R18 Michelin tires; black headliner and pillar covers; chrome accent side sills; front and rear upper door trim and instrument panel with silver perforated stitching; heated rear outboard seats; leather wrapped flat-bottom steering wheel with black perforated stitching and paddle shifters; upgraded Nappa leather seat trim; body-color outside mirrors and rear spoiler; rear side-window sunshades; and a Surround View Monitor.

New LED fog lights, ambient interior lighting, sport steering wheel and Smart Cruise Control with Stop-and-Go are standard on the SX model, which also comes with a panoramic sunroof; Harman Kardon premium audio system with UVO link and navigation; heated steering wheel; gloss-black door pillars and side moldings; and a sport bumper with LED fog lights.

The new Advanced Driver Assistance Systems include such features as Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist, which automatically applies brakes to reduce speed to avoid a frontal collision; a Forward Collision Warning System, designed to detect a potential collision with the vehicle ahead, giving the Optima driver audible and visual warnings; Driver Attention Warning, which keeps an eye on the driver for signs of fatigue; Lane Keep Assist, which can keep the vehicle from drifting out of its intended lane; and Lane Departure Warning, which lets the driver know if the vehicle is drifting out of its lane without a turn signal being activated.

Kia's UVO telematics and infotainment systems have been updated for 2019, with a variety of features depending on trim level. They include Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capability.

In the hybrid models, there is a lightweight, high-density lithium-polymer battery pack, placed under the trunk floor.

Gasoline models have a roomy 15.9 cubic feet of trunk space, with a 60/40 split-folding rear seatback. Regular hybrids have 13.4 cubic feet of trunk space, and the PHEV has just 9.9 cubic feet (in both hybrids, some space is lost to the battery pack).

Unlike some hybrid sedans — such as the Toyota Prius — the Optima hybrid looks almost identical to its gasoline-only sibling. But the hybrid does have a few unique styling cues, including a front air curtain, beveled rear bumper, rear diffuser shrouding the exhaust tip, and aerodynamic alloy wheels.

Included on our SX was the hands-free smart trunk opener, which automatically pops the trunk lid open if someone stands behind it for more than three seconds with the key fob.

Among standard safety features are front seat-mounted side air bags, roof-mounted side-curtain air bags for both rows, driver's knee air bag, electronic stability control with traction control, antilock disc brakes, hill-start assist, and tire-pressure monitoring.

We had an abundance of power from the 2.0-liter turbo engine, with very little sign of turbo lag or the torque-steer effect often associated with front-drive cars,

Our time in the SX included a weekend trip with three adults on board, and occasionally four or five in the car for restaurant and sightseeing outings. The front seats are quite comfortable, as are the rear outboard positions. The middle position is OK for a small adult or child, but tight for a larger person.

The ride was smooth and reasonably quiet, even on some bumpy roads.

There were no options on our 2019 Optima SX. Total sticker price was $32,820, including freight.

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Kia Optima

The package: Midsize, four-door, four-cylinder gasoline or gasoline/electric hybrid powered, front-wheel-drive, five-passenger family sedan.

Highlights: Kia's midsize sedan got a complete makeover for 2016, and the gasoline-electric hybrid model was updated for 2017; for 2019, there are numerous upgrades and styling tweaks. This is the best Optima yet, looking more like a luxury car than an affordable, mass-market vehicle.

Negatives: Headroom is tight for taller people in models with the sunroof.

Engine/power: 2.4-liter normally aspirated inline four-cylinder gasoline (LX, S); 1.6-liter turbocharged gasoline inline four-cylinder (EX); 2.0-liter turbocharged inline four-cylinder gasoline (SX); 2.0-liter inline four-cylinder gasoline engine and 50 HP. electric motor (base hybrid); 2.0-liter inline four-cylinder gasoline engine and 66 HP. electric motor (PHEV).

Transmission: Six-speed automatic (LX, S, SX, hybrids); seven-speed dual-clutch automatic (EX gasoline).

Power/torque: 185 HP./178 foot-pounds (2.4); 178 HP./195 foot-pounds (1.6 turbo); 245 HP./260 foot-pounds (2.0 turbo); 154 HP/140 foot-pounds (hybrid, gasoline engine alone).

Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.

Electronic stability control: Standard, including traction control.

Side air bags: Front seat-mounted; roof-mounted side-curtain, both rows.

Length: 191.1 inches.

Trunk capacity: 15.9 cubic feet (gasoline models); 13.42 cubic feet (base hybrid); 9.9 cubic feet (PHEV).

Curb weight range: 3,230-3,558 (gasoline); 3,486-3,788 pounds (hybrids).

Fuel capacity/type: 18.5 gallons/unleaded regular (gasoline models); 15.85 gallons/unleaded regular (hybrids).

EPA fuel economy: 25 mpg city/35 highway/29 combined (LX); 24/33/27 (S); 27/37/31 (EX); 21/30/24 (SX); 39/45/41 (base hybrid); 38/43/40 (PHEV).

Major competitors: Toyota Camry, Hyundai Sonata, Volkswagen Passat, Chevrolet Malibu, Ford Fusion, Nissan Altima, Mazda6, Honda Accord.

Base price range: $22,900-$32,900 plus $920 freight (gasoline); $27,985-$35,290 (hybrids).

Price as tested: $32,820, including freight (2019 SX, no options).

On the Road rating: 8.7 (of a possible 10).

Prices shown are manufacturer's suggested retail; actual selling price may vary.

Life & Style

Founder of Dead Poets Society is published, posthumously

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —The late founder of the Dead Poets Society of America can be inducted to the society of fallen bards now that he's now a published poet.

Walter Skold visited the gravesites of more than 600 poets, and one of his criteria was that the subjects had to be published. Now he's becoming a published poet, posthumously, on the one-year anniversary of his death Sunday, thanks to the efforts of two of his children.

Simon and Charles Skold curated their father's poems for the book "The Mirror is Not Cracked."

They self-published the tome to ensure it would be printed by Jan. 20, a year to the day their father went from being a chronicler of poets to becoming a dead poet himself.

"We feel like we owe it to him," said Simon Skold, who once spent six weeks with his dad on one of his cross-country visits to poets' graves in 2014.

Their father was a colorful character.

He launched the Dead Poets Society in 2008 in Freeport, Maine, drawing inspiration for the name from the 1989 Robin Williams movie. And he traveled the country in monthslong, epic graveyard adventures in a colorful cargo van dubbed "Dedgar the Poemobile."

His cemetery antics combined history, humor and the macabre, but his goal was to draw attention to poetry and poets, especially those in danger of being forgotten.

AP

In this Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 photo Charles Skold, of Somerville, Mass., son of poet Walter Skold, displays "The Mirror is not Cracked," a book of poems by his late father, in Somerville, Mass.

His death in Pennsylvania came a little more than a month after he commissioned Michael Updike, son of novelist John Updike, to create his tombstone.

In life, Skold marked occasions like birthdays and holidays with a poem. But he never published his works. Under the surface, his sons say, he was plagued by self-doubt and prone to periods of depression. He kept the bulk of his poetry to himself.

His sons realized after his death that he'd amassed about 300 poems. Reading the poetry allowed them to see the world through their father's eyes.

The brothers shared laughter and tears as they perused them last summer. Some were handwritten, others stored on computer drives. They ranged from full-length works to one-line quips, like this one from 2017: "I hope I'm alive when I die."

They found that remembrance, lament and hope pervaded his poetry, which they described as a dance between sorrow and joy. "The gift of life and the reality of death here meet and walk in hand, a marriage of sobriety and reverie," they wrote in the foreword.

The poetry is actually quite good.

"I was afraid it would be a sentimental gesture, but it rose way above that mark. It's a very solid book," said Michele Madigan Somerville, a poet and writer who got a sneak peek at the poetry. "I was surprised to see how good the book was."

Already, the sons are thinking of publishing a second book based on a project their dad had worked on, but was never published.

For now, they're happy with a small run of their book. They worked with Maine-based Ascensius Press on a print run that numbers in the hundreds, not thousands.

While alive, Walter Skold hatched the idea of creating a new holiday, National Poets Remembrance Day, on the Sunday closest to Oct. 7, the date Edgar Allan Poe died. He viewed it as a day to celebrate all poets, including those who have died.

Now the tables are being turned on the late poet.

Charles Skold, who lives in Massachusetts, said he and Simon, from Nevada, plan to return to his father's grave in Brunswick, Maine, to read his poetry on the holiday.

'Rambo,' 'Total Recall' producer Andy Vajna dies at 74

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Andy Vajna, a Hungarian-American film producer who worked on several "Rambo" movies with Sylvester Stallone, "Total Recall" with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Madonna's "Evita," has died. He was 74.

Vajna, who produced many other films, died Sunday at his Budapest home after a long illness, Hungary's National Film Fund said.

Schwarzenegger remembered Vajna as "a dear friend and a revolutionary force in Hollywood."

"He proved that you don't need studios to make huge movies," Schwarzenegger posted on Twitter. "He had a huge heart, and he was one of the most generous guys around. I'll miss him."

Stallone paid tribute to Vajna on Instagram, calling him "a pioneer" and "the man that made Rambo" happen. Vajna believed in "First Blood," the first Rambo film, "when no one else did. This truly breaks my heart," Stallone said.

Vajna was also owner of the TV2 Group, a Hungarian company which owns several television channels, including TV2, one of Hungary's two main broadcasters and politically aligned closely with Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government.

"We are bidding farewell to the greatest Hungarian film producer," Orban posted on his Facebook page. "Hasta la vista, Andy! Thank you for everything, my friend!"

Since 2011, Vajna had been a commissioner in the Orban government, in charge of developing Hungary's film industry.

Hungarian films have won several top prizes at recent international festivals. In 2016, "Son of Saul," financed mostly by Hungary's National Film Fund, won the Oscar for best foreign language film.

Vajna, who enjoyed a state-granted monopolistic concession on Budapest casinos, was recently listed by the Hungarian edition of Forbes magazine as the 18th richest Hungarian, with a net worth estimated at nearly $240 million. He also owned Radio 1, a radio station popular across the country.

The producer was born Andras Gyorgy Vajna in Budapest on Aug. 1, 1944, and escaped Hungary's communist regime in 1956 with help from the International Red Cross. After some time in Canada, he was reunited with his family in Los Angeles.

AP

In this Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 photo government commissioner in charge of the development of Hungary's film industry, Andy Vajna, participates in a discussion in the headquarters of the Hungarian National Film Fund in Budapest.

After studying at UCLA, Vajna operated cinemas in Hong Kong, where he also established a successful wig-making company.

In the mid-1970s, Vajna set up Carolco, a film production firm, with Mario Kassar. Besides the Rambo series, the two men were also behind films like "Victory" — starring Stallone, Michael Caine and Pele; "Red Heat" and "Total Recall," starring Schwarzenegger; and "Angel Heart" and "Johnny Handsome" with Mickey Rourke.

After leaving Carolco in 1989, Vajna's films included "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," "Die Hard with a Vengeance," "The Scarlet Letter," "Nixon" and "I Spy."

He also produced several successful Hungarian films and was co-owner of Korda Studios, in the village of Etyek, near Budapest, where "The Martian," "Inferno" and "Hellboy II: The Golden Army" were filmed.

Late last year, Vajna was among a handful of businesspeople close to Orban who donated most of their media holdings to a nonprofit foundation overseen by an Orban ally, a move which put over 470 publications under even closer political control.

Vajna is survived by his wife, Timea.

Film airing on PBS highlights Native American links to rock

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—As a child, Fred Lincoln "Link" Wray Jr. hid under a bed when the Ku Klux Klan came to his parents' home in rural North Carolina. Racist groups often targeted the poor family of Shawnee Native American ancestry as the Wrays endured segregation in the American South just like African-Americans.

Wray eventually took all that rage of his early years and crafted a 1958 instrumental hit "Rumble" using a distinct, distorted electric guitar sound that would influence rock 'n' roll musicians from Iggy Pop and Neil Young to Pete Townshend of The Who and Slash of Guns N' Roses. Though the song had no lyrics, it was banned in the 1950s for allegedly encouraging teen violence.

Wray is one of many Native Americans musicians whose stories are featured in a documentary set to air on the PBS series "Independent Lens " showing how Native Americans helped lay the foundations to rock, blues and jazz and shaped generations of musicians. "RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World" will be broadcast online and on most PBS stations Monday.

The film is the brainchild of Apache guitarist Stevie Salas, who has performed with the likes of Rod Stewart and Mick Jagger. It was during a tour with Stewart that the Oceanside, California-raised Salas began to wonder about other Native American rock musicians who came before him. "I was there with Rod Stewart and thinking, 'Am I the only Indian to have ever played at (New York's) Madison Garden?'" Salas told The Associated Press. "So I started to investigate."

In this Aug. 1, 1971 file photo, Jesse Ed Davis, center right, a guitarist of Kiowa and Comanche ancestry, performs with George Harrison, left, formerly of the Beatles, at the Concert For Bangladesh at Madison Square Garden in New York City. AP

Soon Salas, now 54, stumbled upon Wray, a musician he'd admired but had no idea he was Native American. Then he found out about the Norman, Oklahoma-born Jesse Ed Davis, a guitarist of Kiowa and Comanche ancestry who performed with John Lennon.

The hobby searching for Native American rock musicians eventually launched an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, then a film.

"People need to know about Link Wray. People need to know about Jesse Ed Davis," Salas said.

But rock musicians aren't the only popular performers "RUMBLE" seeks to highlight. The documentary touches on blues pioneer Charley Patton, an early 20th Century Mississippi Delta guitarist of Choctaw and African-American ancestry. The film shows how some of Patton's music preserved on rough vinyl recordings is similar to traditional American Indian songs. Those traditions were fused with black music.

Legendary bluesman Howlin' Wolf would say he learned to play the guitar from an "Indian man" by the name of Charley Patton.

The film also introduces viewers to the largely forgotten jazz vocalist Mildred Bailey. A member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe in the Pacific Northwest, Bailey began singing ragtime in the 1920s and developed a swing style that blended traditional Native American vocals with jazz. She became known as the "The Queen of Swing" who performed at speakeasies and had a style so unique that young Italian-American aspiring singers Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra began copying her form.

"She was one of the great improvisers of jazz," Bennett said on the film. "I was completely influenced by Mildred Bailey. She sang perfect, for me."

The film also explores the career of Robbie Robertson, a Canadian musician of Mohawk and Cayuga descent, who performed with Bob Dylan in the mid-1960s before forming his own group called The Band.

"Be proud that you're an Indian," Robertson said he was told as a child, "but be careful who you tell."

The documentary dives into the career of Davis, lead guitarist for Taj Mahal, who died in 1988 of a heroin overdose. And it goes into the momentous career of Randy Castillo, the Albuquerque, New Mexico-born Isleta Pueblo drummer for Ozzy Osbourne and Mötley Crüe, whose life was cut short by cancer in 2002.

As the Native American musicians get closer to the 21st century, the film shows that they stopped hiding their identity and began to celebrate it.

"This is a missing chapter to this history of music," co-director Catherine Bainbridge said. "Native Americans were at the center of our popular music."

'Green Book' takes top honor at the Producers Guild Awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Oscars race may have gotten a little clearer Saturday night as the race-themed road trip drama "Green Book" drove off with the top honor at the Producers Guild Awards, winning out over presumed front-runners like "Roma," "A Star Is Born" and "Black Panther."

"When you make 'Dumb and Dumber' you never expect to get an award," said "Green Book" producer and director Peter Farrelly as he accepted the Darryl F. Zanuck Award at the untelevised ceremony in Beverly Hills. He laughed that not only is this his first PGA awards, but that it's the first time he has even heard of them.

"I'm so grateful to be in this business," Farrelly said.

Ten films were up for the honor, including "BlacKkKlansman," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Crazy Rich Asians," "The Favourite," "A Quiet Place" and "Vice." In the broader awards race, the PGAs are a closely-watched event. The Darryl F. Zanuck Award winner has gone on to win the best picture Oscar 20 out of 29 times, including last year with "The Shape of Water."

"Green Book" has had a rollercoaster awards campaign, weathering its share of both praise and backlash. But the film has with its PGA and Golden Globe wins emerged stronger than ever going into Tuesday's Academy Award nominations.

The Fred Rogers film "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" won for documentary, and "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" collected the animation award to much applause.

"We tried really hard to make a movie that was good enough for Miles Morales and his family to be in," said "Spider-Verse" producer and co-writer Phil Lord.

The producers of nine television programs were also recognized, including "The Americans," for drama, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," for comedy, "RuPaul's Drag Race," game and competition television, "Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown," for non-fiction television, and "The Assassination of Gianni Versace" for limited series. "Sesame Street" won for children's programming, "Being Serena" for sports program and "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" for short form.

The awards were almost a backdrop, however, to the multiple special honors bestowed throughout the evening to people like Marvel chief Kevin Feige, Jane Fonda, "Black-ish" creator Kenya Barris, Warner Bros. Pictures Group Chairman Toby Emmerich and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" creator Amy Sherman-Palladino.

Bradley Cooper got to thank Emmerich for taking a chance in letting him, a first-time director, make the fourth remake of a movie ("A Star Is Born") with a star who had never been in a movie before.

Former CIA officer portrayed in 'Argo' film dead at 78

FREDERICK, Md. (AP)—A former CIA technical operations officer who helped rescue six U.S. diplomats from Iran in 1980 and was portrayed by Ben Affleck in the film "Argo," has died. He was 78.

A family statement and his literary agent confirmed that Antonio "Tony" Mendez died Saturday at an assisted-living center in Frederick, Maryland. He had suffered from Parkinson's disease, according to the statement.

Specializing in covert operations, Mendez helped devise the plan under which six diplomats who were in hiding were disguised as a Canadian film crew so they could board a flight and escape the country amid the Iran hostage crisis. The daring plot—for years a side note to the 52 people held hostage for 444 days—captured the public's attention in "Argo," which won the 2013 Oscar for best picture.

Mendez, who joined the CIA after getting recruited in 1965, spent his 25-year career working undercover in Cold War battlegrounds, including the Soviet Union. Working as a "chief of disguise," Mendez and his workers helped secret agents remain secret through creating false documents and disguises, according to a biography for his first book, "The Master of Disguise; My Secret Life in the CIA."

AP

In an Oct. 10, 2012 file photo, Antonio "Tony" Mendez, former CIA technical operations officer, poses for photographers at the premiere of the film Argo in Washington.

"Tony Mendez was a true American hero. He was a man of extraordinary grace, decency, humility and kindness," Affleck tweeted Saturday. "He never sought the spotlight for his actions, he merely sought to serve his country. I'm so proud to have worked for him and to have told one of his stories."

The "Argo" screenplay, based on another Mendez memoir and also an Oscar winner, was liberally embellished for the big screen. The six Americans' passage through the Tehran airport and onto a plane was uneventful, Mendez wrote. But the movie portrayed a white-knuckle takeoff at the Tehran airport, with Iranian assault teams racing behind the jet down the runway.

Born in Nevada, Mendez moved to Colorado at age 14, attended the University of Colorado and worked for Martin Marietta on the Titan intercontinental missile, according to the online biography. He was recruited for the CIA in Denver through a blind ad.

M. Night Shyamalan's 'Glass' is No. 1 with $40.6M debut

NEW YORK (AP)—M. Night Shyamalan scored his fifth No. 1 movie as the director's "Glass," while not quite the blockbuster some expected, nevertheless dominated Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend at the box office with $40.6 million in ticket sales according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal Pictures predicted that "Glass" will make about $47 million over the four-day holiday weekend. Some industry forecasts had gone as high as $75 million over four days. But poor reviews took some of the momentum away from "Glass," Shyamalan's final entry in a trilogy begun with 2000′s "Unbreakable" and followed up with 2017′s "Split."

Shyamalan's film registered a 35 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences also gave it a mediocre B Cinema Score.

Yet the result still proved the renewed draw of Shyamalan, the "Sixth Sense" filmmaker synonymous with supernatural thrillers and unpredictable plot twists. "Split," which greatly overshot expectations with a $40 million opening and $278.5 million worldwide, signaled Shyamalan's return as a box-office force, now teamed up with horror factory Blumhouse Productions. Shyamalan, himself, put up the film's approximately $20 million budget.

AP

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Sarah Paulson, left, and Samuel L. Jackson in a scene from M. Night Shyamalan's "Glass."

Jim Orr, president of domestic distribution for Universal, said any forecasts beyond how "Glass" performed were out of whack with the studio's own expectations. Orr granted that better reviews might have meant a larger return and that the winter storm across the Midwest and Northeast may have dampened results.

But he said Universal was thrilled with the results. The four-day total ranks "Glass" as the third best MLK weekend openings ever, behind only "American Sniper" ($107.2 million) and "Ride Along" ($48.6 million). "Glass" also picked up $48.5 million overseas, where Disney had distribution rights.

"This came in at or above any reasonable industry expectations," said Orr.

Last week's top film, Kevin Hart's "The Upside," held especially well in its second weekend, sliding only 23 percent with $15.7 million. STX Entertainment estimated it will take $19.5 million over the four-day period, offering further proof that Hart's fallout as Oscar host over past homophobic tweets hasn't hurt his box office appeal.

But the weekend's biggest surprise was the Japanese anime film "Dragon Ball Super: Broly," which earned an estimated $8.7 million on the weekend from just 1,250 North American theaters, according to Comscore, and $19.5 million since opening Wednesday. (It grossed more than $7 million just on opening day.) The Funimation Films release, an animated martial arts fantasy, is the 20th film in the "Dragon Ball" franchise.

1. **"Glass,"** $40.6 million ($48.5 million international).
2. **"The Upside,"** $15.7 million.
3. **"Aquaman,"** $10.3 million ($14.3 million international).
4. **"Dragon Ball Super: Broly,"** $8.7 million ($5.3 million international).
5. **"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,"** $7.3 million.
6. **"A Dog's Way Home,"** $7.1 million ($2.8 million international).
7. **"Escape Room,"** $5.3 million ($9.5 million international).
8. **"Mary Poppins,"** $5.2 million ($6 million international).
9. **"Bumblebee,"** $4.7 million ($20.9 million international).
10. **"On the Basis of Sex,"** $4 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Comscore.

1. **"Glass,"** $48.5 million.
2. **"Bumblebee,"** $20.9 million.
3. **"Aquaman,"** $14.3 million.
4. **"Bohemian Rhapsody,"** $11.3 million.
5. **"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,"** $10.8 million.
6. **"White Snake,"** $9.9 million.
7. **"Escape Room,"** $9.5 million.
8. **"Ralph Breaks the Internet,"** $9.2 million.
9. **"The Big Shot,"** $8.9 million.
10. **"Mary Queen of Scots,"** $6.4 million.

Alabama country music festival moving to another spot

CULLMAN, Ala. (AP)—Rock the South is moving this year, but fans of the country music festival in Cullman needn't worry.

Al.com reports the festival is leaving its usual home in Heritage Park for a larger location about two miles (3.21 kilometers) away.

The site will expand from 15 acres (653400 square feet) to about 140 acres (60984 square feet), and will allow for camping, RV parking and more on-site parking, organizers said.

"We are forever thankful that the City of Cullman and Cullman City Park and Recreation allowed us to use Heritage Park for seven years and even more thankful we can continue our incredible relationship, just in a new location," organizer Nathan Baugh, of 46 Entertainment, said in a press release.

Baugh and Shane Quick, of Premier Productions, own and produce the festival.

Rock the South has been working with engineering firms to develop the property, create a traffic plan for the event and address concerns about rain and drainage on site, organizers said.

More than 65,000 people are expected at this year's event set for May 31-June 1. The 2019 lineup will be released beginning Jan. 22. Previous acts have included Eric Church, Little Big Town, Florida Georgia Line, Thomas Rhett, Alan Jackson, Hank Williams Jr., Luke Bryan and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Rock the South started small in 2012, with a single-day lineup that featured Dierks Bentley, Kellie Pickler, Brent Cobb and Jon Pardi. It has continued to grow over its seven-year history, presenting a variety of country pop, traditional country and Southern rock performers.

Pope puts Sistine choir under aide's eye after scandal

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis has put a close aide in charge of the Sistine Chapel Choir following a funding scandal.

The Vatican said Saturday that the all-male ensemble, believed to be the world's oldest choir, is now being led by Monsignor Guido Marini, who assists Francis during church ceremonies. Francis named another monsignor, Guido Pozzo, to handle the choir's finances.

The Vatican last year began a probe of alleged diversion of funds by choir directors. The Holy See's press office said Saturday that the investigation is continuing into the "economic-administrative aspects" of the choir, and that it would release information about it when it is done.

Meanwhile, the choir's director continues at his post, now answering directly to Marini, who will oversee all aspects of the choir, including its musical activity, the Vatican said.

The choir's much-heralded 2018 summer tour of the United States was canceled without official explanation.

In May, the choir performed for celebrities at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual VIP-studded Gala.

Francis noted in his apostolic letter announcing the changes that church choirs must perform at liturgical ceremonies with "sincere piety."

Man plans to give girlfriend a ring without a proposal

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Jane," and I have been in love for three years. We're both in our 30s. Jane and her daughter have lived with me long enough to know that I want to be a part of—and contribute to—the rest of their lives. Jane knows I never want to be married, but that I am committed to her. I know how to make sure she is taken care of in the event that I pass away, and I'm in the process of making that a reality.

I would like to give her a special diamond. Is there a way to give her the moment she deserves without asking her to marry me?

SHE DESERVES BETTER

DEAR SHE DESERVES BETTER: I doubt it. If Jane would like to be married and is open about your relationship, don't be surprised if she tells you she would rather have a proposal and a wedding than a diamond and a legal document.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband's parents forgot his birthday—again. Last year, he laughed it off. This year, it wasn't so funny. It's especially hurtful because they not only remember his other adult siblings' birthdays, but throw parties or dinners for them to which we are invited.

Would I be out of line to send them a reminder next year? I don't want them to think I'm fishing for a party; I just would like them to call their son on his birthday.

CALENDAR GIRL IN ILLINOIS

DEAR CALENDAR GIRL: Why do I think there is more to this story than you have mentioned? Your husband may have done—or not done—something that upset his parents, and this may be their passive-aggressive way of punishing him.

Do not "remind" them of the birthday. They are well aware of when it is. Instead, plan a celebration for him with some of his friends, and make the occasion a happy one with no mention of his parents.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please explain why DJs or bands think it's appropriate to blast their music at occasions like weddings, dinners or any gathering, for that matter, to the point that the guests have to shout at each other. I thought music was supposed to be in the background, to be enjoyed during a meal or conversation, then raised a LITTLE louder for dancing, since dancers want to hear the music.

I was at a golf tournament recently, and we asked the DJs to turn the volume down because the players were still golfing. They did, but when players started coming in, the music got louder and louder until it was blasting. The more people who came in, the louder it got. Abby, how do you feel about this?

TOO LOUD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR TOO LOUD: This may happen because of the size of the room or the mood the musicians are attempting to create. However, unless music is being played in a dance club, increasing the volume to the point that attendees cannot comfortably carry on a conversation is intrusive.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK AT ALL THIS HOMEWORK. I'M SUPPOSED TO DO!
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS GARBAGE! I WANT TO GO PLAY OUTSIDE!
CHILDHOOD IS SHORT AND MATURITY IS FOREVER.

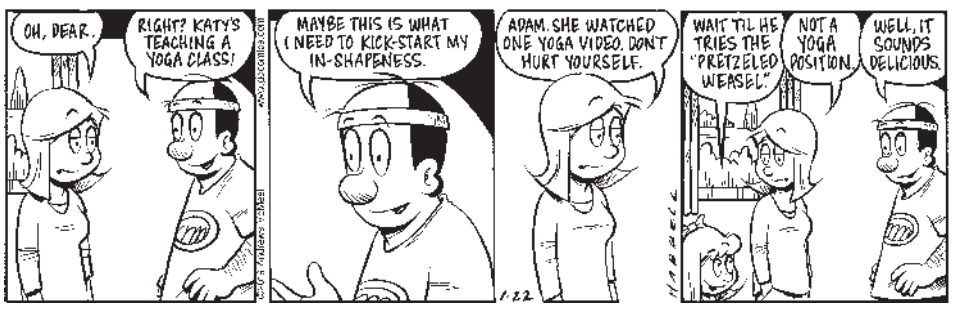
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MY LIFE
WHAT ABOUT IT?
WHAT IF THINGS DON'T GO WRONG?
SAY WHAT?
I MEAN, SUCCESS CAN BE HARDER TO DEAL WITH THAN FAILURE
JUST AS LONG AS THERE'S PIZZA ON THE TABLE...
JIM DAVIS 1-22

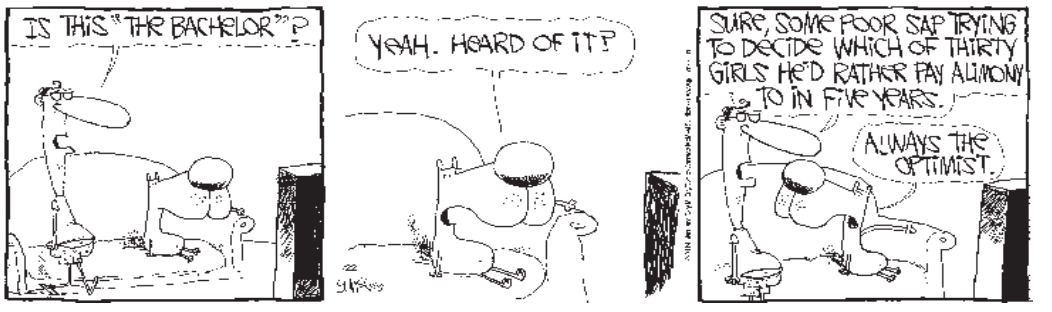
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH, DEAR.
RIGHT? KATY'S TEACHING A YOGA CLASS!
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT I NEED TO KICK-START MY IN-SHAPENESS.
ADAM. SHE WATCHED ONE YOGA VIDEO. DON'T HURT YOURSELF.
WAIT TIL HE TRIES THE "PRETZELED WEASEL."
NOT A YOGA POSITION.
WELL, IT SOUNDS DELICIOUS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IS THIS "THE BACHELOR"?
YEAH. HEARD OF IT?
SURE, SOME POOR SAP TRYING TO DECIDE WHICH OF THIRTY GIRLS HE'D RATHER PAY ALIMONY TO IN FIVE YEARS.
ALWAYS THE OPTIMIST.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Borscht veggie
5 Nourished
8 Great Lakes fish
12 Choir voice
13 "— been real"
14 Plane-related
15 Pear variety
17 Fury
18 Away from WSW
19 Mine yield
20 Say
21 Snoop
22 Upscale auto
23 Golf great Sam
26 Husband of Eurydice
30 Level
31 Genetic letters
32 Sicilian peak
33 New Mexico's capital
35 Director DeMille
36 "Nasty!"
37 Cowboy's sweetie
38 Brag
41 Gaiety
42 Mauna —
45 Pac-12 sch.
46 Cocktails garnished with olives
48 Avoid
49 Ostrich's kin
50 Sultry Horne
51 Male turkeys
52 — Moines
53 Retain

DOWN
1 Innocent one
2 Flair
3 French 101 verb
4 Pre-schooler
5 Red-hot
6 Diminutive suffix
7 "Spring ahead" hrs.
8 Sideways somersault
9 Miami team
10 Desire
11 Afrikaner
16 Byron or Tennyson
20 Strike caller
21 Devoted supporters
22 Bikini top
23 Rds.
24 Actress Long
25 Still, in verse
26 Small bill
27 List-ending abbr.
28 Half of bi-
29 Bando of baseball
31 "Bobby" subj.
34 Do something
35 Quitter's word
37 Mentors
38 Small statue
39 Twice cuatro
40 Grad
41 Notoriety
42 Leg joint
43 Aachen article
44 Now, on a memo
46 Club —
47 Sort

Solution time: 22 mins.

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J	A	S	M	I	N	F		A	N	I	S	F
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Yesterday's answer 1-22

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
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■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Beverley Mitchell, 38; Balthazar Getty, 44; Guy Fieri, 51; Diane Lane, 54.

Happy Birthday: Make your choices carefully. You'll have plenty of options and little time to make a decision. If you take on too much, you will fall short, and if your motives aren't good, you will end up where you started. Use your intelligence and insight to guide you in the right direction. Walk away from discord, and focus on positive endeavors. Your numbers are 7, 12, 21, 27, 28, 42, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be a participant. Get involved in your community. Lead the way to a better and healthier way of living and you will coax others to follow suit. Physical fitness, expanding your awareness and making personal improvements are favored. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Concentrate on what's important to you and what will bring the best results regarding prospects. Refuse to let the changes someone else makes interfere with your game plan. Know what you want and head in that direction. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Personal gain should be your intent. Focus on what and who are advantageous, and consider how best to utilize your skills and experience. An opportunity to work from home or to partner with someone you find mentally stimulating looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take the road less traveled and see where it leads. Don't worry about taking extra time; it will encourage you to get things done right the first time. Walk away from impulsive individuals trying to push you in a different direction. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Mix business with pleasure to get a lot done. The relationships you develop will ensure you get the help you require when needed. A romantic gesture will make your day. A personal change will help build confidence. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Do things differently. Examine your options and consider what's in your best interest. Problems at home or with someone close to you should not be allowed to influence a decision you make or your ability to get things done. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Watch what's going on around you. Problems at home or within a partnership can be expected. Take better care of your health and focus on building your strength, immunity and your reputation. Romance and relationships are featured. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refuse to let your emotions take over, being reasonable without jeopardizing your position, reputation or an important relationship. Face-to-face talks, dedication and determination will be required in order to get things done. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep moving forward, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Refuse to let someone mislead you or cause problems for you and someone you love. Trust must be earned, not bought. Focus on fitness and home improvements. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Size up everything and everyone before you make a move. Time is on your side, so refuse to jump into something because someone is trying to tempt you with an offer based on information that isn't verified. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Open a dialogue with someone you respect or want to collaborate with. Once you engage in talks, you'll discover exactly what you need to do in order to bring your idea to the forefront. Personal growth, exercise and romance are featured. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Turn a negative into a positive. Assess your situation and make adjustments that will encourage you to be better, wiser and more conscientious moving forward. Much can be accomplished if you dedicate more time to self-improvement. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, outgoing and helpful. You are enthusiastic and changeable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	4	8					2
1		6		4	2		9	
	9		3					
4						7		
		8				3		
	5							6
					3		2	
	8		1	6		4		9
9					4	7	8	

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	6	9	5	8	1	2	7	3
1	5	2	7	9	3	6	8	4
7	8	3	6	2	4	5	9	1
5	7	8	9	4	6	1	3	2
9	4	1	3	5	2	8	6	7
2	3	6	8	1	7	9	4	5
8	2	4	1	3	9	7	5	6
6	1	5	4	7	8	3	2	9
3	9	7	2	6	5	4	1	8

Difficulty Level ★ 21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MAJORDOMO Solution: 7 letters

S	E	G	R	E	I	C	N	O	C	H	A	R	G	E
E	T	N	U	O	C	C	A	C	H	I	E	F	M	N
I	N	I	T	N	A	V	R	E	S	M	E	A	E	I
L	E	D	H	O	U	S	E	T	A	N	N	C	D	W
I	E	I	Ⓢ	Ⓡ	Ⓐ	Ⓒ	E	Y	A	C	I	A	I	S
M	U	V	T	I	A	W	O	L	H	V	F	S	G	E
A	Q	O	A	L	A	R	L	A	R	G	E	T	N	C
F	S	R	A	R	E	E	M	E	T	M	A	S	I	U
F	E	P	D	G	T	B	S	S	O	B	G	E	N	R
O	C	L	A	S	E	U	S	H	E	R	E	U	A	I
R	N	N	A	R	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	E	T
E	A	C	L	Y	C	L	S	M	O	O	T	H	L	Y
M	N	A	R	A	O	E	L	B	O	N	S	R	C	E
A	I	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	D	T	E	L	A	V
N	F	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	S	S	N	A	L	P

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Account, Acts, Agents, Boss, Butler, Cars, Castellan, Chamberlain, Charge, Chief, Cleaning, Concierge, Control, Families, Finances, Fine, Foreman, Functions, Guests, Head, Home, House, Large, Manager, Mayor, Noble, Palace, Parties, Plans, Providing, Queen, Royal, Security, Servant, Service, Smoothly, Steward, Stocking, Travel, Usher, Valet, Wait, Wine

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Tsitsipas eliminates Federer; Nadal wins

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas makes a forehand return to Switzerland's Roger Federer during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019.

AP

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Even as his uninterrupted dominance of yore dissipated, even as he took the occasional break, Roger Federer always mattered more often than not in the closing days of Grand Slam tournaments.

Until lately, that is.

Until, at age 37, he was outplayed in the Australian Open's fourth round by a much younger man, 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas, during a 6-7 (11), 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-6 (5) surprise that ended Federer's bid for a third consecutive championship at Melbourne Park.

"I have massive regrets," said Federer, who failed to convert any of the 12 break points he earned against Tsitsipas, the first player from Greece to reach a major quarterfinal.

This loss makes it a fourth straight Slam without Federer in the semifinals: He skipped the 2018 French Open, was beaten at Wimbledon in the quarterfinals and exited the U.S. Open in the fourth round.

That is his longest such drought since he claimed the first of his men's record 20 major titles, all the way back in 2003 at Wimbledon.

"Roger is a legend of our sport. So much respect for him. He showed such good tennis over the years. I've been idolizing him since the age of 6," said Tsitsipas, who has worked with Serena Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou.

"It was a dream come true for me ... just facing him," Tsitsipas said about Federer. "Winning at the end? I cannot describe it, you know."

Federer was the oldest man left in the field and would have been the oldest quarterfinalist in Australia since Ken Rosewall at 43 in 1977.

Tsitsipas, a lanky guy who kept his scraggly hair in place with a pink headband, was the youngest to make the fourth round this year. He lost his opening match in Melbourne a year ago, when Federer picked up his sixth Australian Open championship.

"For sure, it's a good win against Roger. I mean, we all know who Roger Federer is, what he has done in tennis. But I still have to keep my focus, keep my concentration on further goals that I want to achieve. That's a very good beginning. I need to stay humble," said Tsitsipas, who next faces another player making his quarterfinal debut at a major, No. 22 Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain. "This win is a good milestone, let's say good first step, as I said, to something bigger."

At least Federer was able to crack a joke when asked whether Tsitsipas reminds him of a younger version of himself, replying: "He has a one-handed backhand. And I used to have long hair, too."

And before anyone writes off Federer just yet, remember that folks have kept trying to do that for quite some time, and he has repeatedly returned to title-winning form. After this setback, Federer announced that he would return to playing the clay-court circuit this season, including the French Open after missing it the past three years.

This match was a thriller from beginning to end, both in terms of the high quality and entertaining style of play from both men—something long expected of Federer. The world is still learning what the 14th-seeded Tsitsipas can do.

His soft hands serve him well on volleys, and he is that rare man who will press forward as often as Federer and have nearly as much success. On this cool evening, Tsitsipas won the point on 48 of 68 trips to the net, while Federer went 50 for 66.

The kid served well, too, compiling a 20-12 edge in aces and, more significantly, staving off all of those break chances that Federer earned: two in the first set, eight in the second, two in the third.

In the opening game of the match, Tsitsipas twice was called for a time violation after allowing the 25-second serve clock—new in Melbourne's main draw this year —to expire. The second such warning resulted in the loss of a serve, and Tsitsipas proceeded to double-fault, offering up a break point to Federer.

Tsisipas erased that chance with a 123 mph (198 kph) serve initially called out, then reversed on a challenge. Federer insisted to chair umpire James Keothavong that they should replay the point, a request that was denied, drawing the Swiss star's ire.

That would signal a pattern. At each key juncture, either Federer blinked or Tsitsipas delivered something special.

"Hung in there, gave himself chances at some points, stayed calm. It's not always easy, especially for younger guys," said Federer, who was trying to reach his 54th Grand Slam quarterfinal. "Credit to him for taking care of that."

Tsitsipas never even collected a break point of his own until the third set, and the match was nearly 3 hours old when he finally cashed one in, the only one he would need, when Federer pushed a forehand into the net.

The crowd, sensing something special, broke into a chorus of "Tsi-tsi-pas! Tsi-tsi-pas!"

As is often the case when a youngster outdoes an old master, there was buzz about whether this might signal something more meaningful than one result. Each member of the sport's long-ruling Big Three—Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic—already had dismissed challenges from the next generation at this tournament.

This, though, was different.

Tsitsipas is different.

"I see him being high up in the game," Federer said, "for a long time."

Meanwhile, Nadal has routed Tomas Berdych in a masterclass to charge into the quarterfinals.

The 2009 champion was relentless at Rod Laver Arena on Sunday, claiming the first two sets in an astonishing 51 minutes and firing 32 winners past the hapless Czech to reach the last eight at Melbourne Park for the 11th time, with a 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) victory.

Nadal, who avenged his defeat to the former world No. 4 in the quarterfinals of the 2015 tournament, sealed the win on his first match point when the Czech hammered into the net. The Spaniard is playing his first tournament since he pulled out of the 2018 US Open with knee soreness.

So far he has to be happy with his performance, conceding just 33 games in 12 sets. Bidding for an 18th Grand Slam title, second seed Nadal will now play unseeded American Frances Tiafoe for a place in the semifinals.

China vs Iran in Asian Cup quarterfinals

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran and China will face off in the Asian Cup quarterfinals on Thursday after they both won their last-16 games, while Vietnam scraped through in a penalty shootout.

Iran, Asia's top-ranked team, had to save an early penalty against Oman, but rarely looked in danger after that on the way to a routine 2-0 win on Sunday. Earlier, Marcello Lippi's China had to recover from a goal down to beat Thailand 2-1 in a result which highlighted China's struggles to live up to its ambitions of becoming a football superpower.

Iran nearly went behind right at the start when Seyed Majid Hosseini brought down Oman forward Ahmed Al Mahajiri in the penalty area with a desperate lunge.

However, goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand displayed superb reactions to push Al Mahajiri's penalty wide of the post.

Brighton winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh gave Iran the lead when he muscled an Oman defender off the ball and calmly slotted the ball past goalkeeper Faiyz Al Rusheidi.

Iran made it 2-0 from the penalty spot with captain Ashkan Dejagah sending the ball down the middle of the goal after Oman's Saad Al Mukhaini bundled Mehdi Taremi to the floor. Iran could have scored more but missed several late chances.

Iran hadn't won an Asian Cup knockout game since 2004. It's won the Asian Cup three times but the last of those titles was in 1976.

Supachai Jaided put Thailand ahead against China in the 31st minute, turning and shooting despite being surrounded by three defenders, before Chinese striker Wu Lei missed a string of good chances.

World Cup-winning coach Lippi brought veteran Xiao Zhi off the bench in the 64th and three minutes later he scored the equalizer, knocking the ball into the net on the rebound from his own saved header.

Gao Lin quickly added a second from the penalty spot after he was fouled by Chalermpong Kerdkaew. China goalkeeper Yun Junling averted extra time when he stopped Chalermpong's fierce shot in stoppage time.

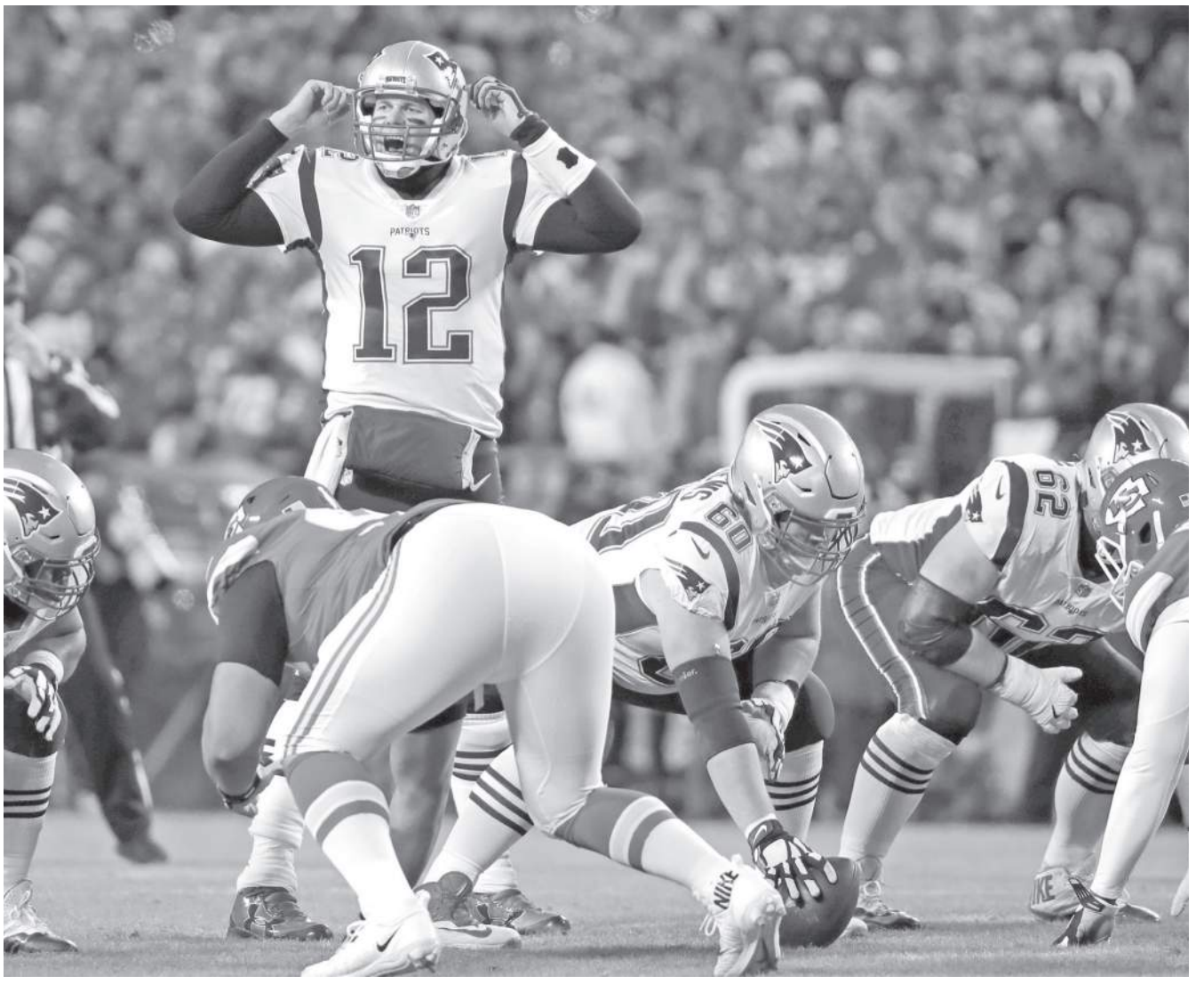
"The players need to be more focused and keep their concentration during the game," Lippi said of his team. "This is a psychological aspect of the game that needs improvement. It's very important to have the same intensity, the same determination, right from the very first minute."

Thailand, which got out of the Asian Cup group stage for the first time in 47 years, had caretaker coach Sirisak Yodyardthai in charge after firing Milovan Rajevac following its opening group-stage 4-1 loss to India. As has often been the case at the Asian Cup, the crowd was sparse and the stadium less than a third full.

Vietnam surprised an on-form Jordan team 4-2 on penalties to reach the quarterfinals following a 1-1 draw after extra time.

Vietnam next plays either Japan or Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

Pats vs Rams in a meeting of past vs future



AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) calls a play during the first half of the AFC Championship NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in Kansas City, Mo.

It began in 2002, back when the Rams were in St. Louis and the Patriots were a plucky underdog standing in the way of a potential dynasty.

So much has changed.

This hasn't: Bill Belichick and Tom Brady.

The duo, every bit as formidable now as when they won that first title, face the Rams, now back in Los Angeles, in a Super Bowl rematch of sorts that pits the NFL's past against its future.

At 32, Sean McVay is the youngest Super Bowl coach. At 66, Bill Belichick has an NFL-record 30 playoff wins.

At 24, Jared Goff is the youngest quarterback to win the NFC championship. At 41, Brady will be the oldest quarterback to start a Super Bowl.

The Rams (15-3) are back in the Super Bowl for the first time since that meeting against the Patriots—and for the first time as the "Los Angeles Rams" since 1980, when they fell to the Steelers. The Patriots (13-5) are back for the third straight time—they lost to Philly last year—the fourth in five seasons and the ninth since Belichick got the New England dynasty on track in the 2002 win over St. Louis.

The Rams duo of McVay and Goff has spent the past two seasons heralding the coming of a new age of football — one in which McVay's reimagined offense has dealt a blow to the old, increasingly dated adage that teams ultimately must win championships with defense. The Rams have cracked 30 points in 13 of their 18 games this season. A generation ago, that would've been novel; now, it's normal.

But to officially usher the NFL into a new era, the Rams will have to get past New England, which is a 1-point favorite for the game in Atlanta, set for Feb. 3—exactly 17 years to the date of the last Super Bowl showdown, and a bit more than three months since the Boston Red Sox topped the LA Dodgers for the World Series. (Who will Magic and Bird cheer for? Stay tuned.)

Is Brady up to it?

Well, on Sunday, he drove the Patriots down the field for three straight touchdowns—two in the fourth quarter and once in overtime—for a 37-31 victory over the Chiefs the only team that gained more yards than Los Angeles this season.

It put an end to the dream of a rematch between two teams of the future—Rams vs. Chiefs—who delivered a wildly entertaining, defense-optional touchdown-fest in a 54-51 Rams victory in November.

Instead, we get a "rematch" of that 2002 Super Bowl, won by the Patriots 20-17.

The Rams came into that game as a franchise on the edge of a dynasty.

They were one season removed from their first Super Bowl win, led by quarterback Kurt Warner and known as "The Greatest Show on Turf" for the fake grass they burned up at their seven-year-old home in St. Louis. They had amassed what was then unheard of—500-plus points in three straight seasons—and were a two-touchdown favorite against Belichick and Brady, who was in his second year and best known as the sixth-round draft pick Belichick stuck with after Drew Bledsoe got injured.

New England used ball control, defense and a last-second field goal to topple Warner and the Rams. On the surface, the task figures to not be all that different this time around, though Brady is showing he's perfectly capable of matching opponents touchdown-for-touchdown. Sunday's win adds to a Week 6 victory over Kansas City by the score of 43-40. The Patriots ranked fifth in overall offense this season, only 28 yards a game behind LA.

Theirs is an offense built around Brady, his mastery of diagnosing defenses at the line of scrimmage and his ability to use interchangeable parts on his offense over the years. (Receiver Julian Edelman and tight end Rob Gronkowski have stood out most recently.)

And stability.

Offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels has interviewed for jobs virtually every year since returning to Foxborough after short stints in Denver and St. Louis. He was out the door for Indy last year, but changed his mind and returned once again to call plays for Belichick.

As for the Rams, they improved from 10th last year in offense to second this season, as McVay and Goff found their footing. But maybe the most telling sign of their success is that McVay's offensive assistants are, as a group, the most sought-after sideline talent in the league. Two left after last season. Two more, quarterbacks coach Zac Taylor and tight ends coach Shane Waldron, are drawing attention this season.

Now, the ultimate question: If they leave, will they do so with a Super Bowl ring?

Zuerlein delivers for Rams; Missed call downs Saints

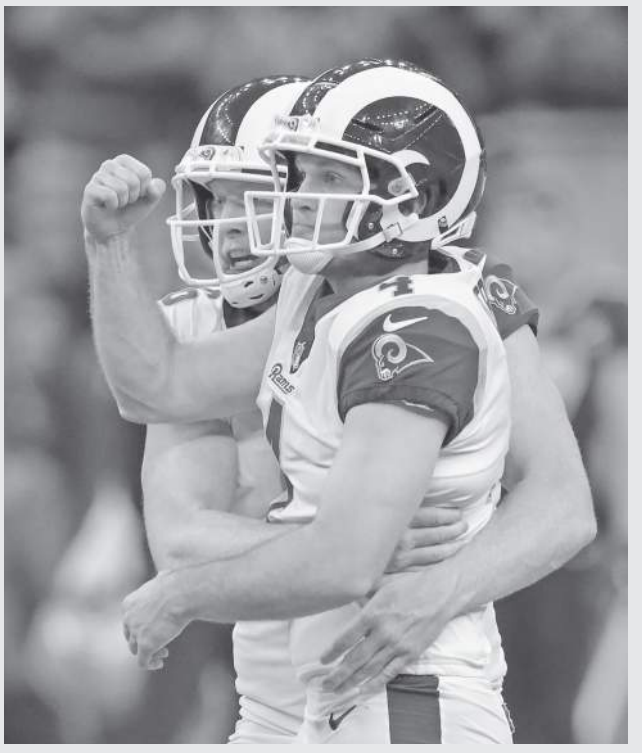
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Greg Zuerlein kicked a 57-yard field goal in overtime and the Los Angeles Rams, helped by a huge missed call by the officials, advanced to the Super Bowl with a 26-23 victory over the New Orleans Saints in the NFC championship game Sunday.

The stunning finish came after New Orleans got the ball first in the extra period. Under pressure, Drew Brees fluttered up a pass that was picked off by John Johnson III, who was able to hang on to the interception while falling onto his back.

Johnson hopped up and celebrated by doing with the "Choppa Style" dance popularized by New Orleans rapper Choppa, whose namesake song had become a Saints' rallying cry.

The Rams weren't able to do much offensively, but it didn't matter. Zuerlein, who had already delivered a tying 48-yard kick with 15 seconds left in regulation, booted through the winning field goal from just inside midfield with plenty of room to spare.

"It's unbelievable, man. I can't put it into words," Rams quarterback Jared Goff said. "The defense played the way they did to force it to overtime. The defense gets a pick and Greg makes a 57-yarder to win it. That was good from about 70. Unbelievable."



AP

Los Angeles Rams' Greg Zuerlein gestures after making the game-winning field goal during overtime of the NFL football NFC championship game against the New Orleans Saints Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in New Orleans.

The Superdome, which had been in uproar all afternoon, suddenly turned eerily silent. It was the first home playoff loss for the Saints with Brees and coach Sean Payton, who and been 6-0 in those games since their pairing began in 2006.

The Rams (15-3) and their 32-year-old coach, Sean McVay, capped a remarkable rise since moving back to Los Angeles three years ago. The team will be appearing in its first Super Bowl since the 2001 season, when the "Greatest Show on Turf" was still in St. Louis.

It was another bitter end to the season for the Saints, who lost the previous season in the divisional round on the "Minnesota Miracle"— the Vikings' long touchdown pass on the final play of the game.

This time, New Orleans (14-4) squandered an early 13-0 lead and couldn't overcome a blown call in the closing minutes of regulation, when the officials failed to flag a blatant pass interference penalty on Los Angeles Nickell Robey-Coleman inside the 5.

On third-and-10 at the Rams 13-yard-line with 1:47 remaining, Brees looked to Tommylee Lewis down the sideline.

Before he had a chance to make a play on the ball, Robey-Coleman absolutely leveled him. Leading with his helmet, Robey-Coleman ran through Lewis, sending him crashing to the ground while the ball was still in the air.

It was obvious pass interference in addition to being an illegal helmet-to-helmet hit. But there was no flag thrown for either violation. The Saints ended up kicking a field to take a 23-20 lead with 1:45 remaining.

Had pass interference been called, New Orleans would have been set up with first-and-goal around the six yard-line with 1:45 remaining and the Rams holding one timeout. They could have run down the bulk of the clock and kicked a field goal or taken a shot at a touchdown.

But instead, they were forced to settle for three points and leave enough time on the clock for the Rams to respond with a 48-yard field goal from Zuerlein to force overtime.

Rose's last-second jumper powers T-Wolves over Suns

AP
Minnesota Timberwolves' Derrick Rose and Phoenix Suns' Kelly Oubre Jr., go after a loose ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in Minneapolis.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Derrick Rose and the Minnesota Timberwolves needed this one.

With 30 seconds left, Rose missed the first of two free throws and was kicking himself for failing to give his team the lead.

"I kept saying, 'You're going to get another shot," Taj Gibson said he told his longtime teammate. Twenty-nine seconds later, Rose proved Gibson prophetic.

Rose hit an 18-footer with 0.9 seconds left to give the Wolves a 116-114 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Sunday night. He carried his team by scoring 29 of his 31 points in the second half to help Minnesota overcome an 11-point deficit.

Gibson dunked to pull Minnesota within one with less than a minute to play. Karl-Anthony Towns intercepted a bad pass from Booker, and Rose hit the second of two foul shots to tie it at 114 with 30.5 remaining.

After giving Rose his pep talk, Gibson grabbed the loose ball after Devin Booker lost it on Phoenix's next possession. With the shot clock off and the crowd on its feet, Rose calmly dribbled down the clock against Mikal Bridges before pulling up and hitting the final shot.

"I missed a lot. it was all up to my teammates and the coaches for giving me that confidence, putting the ball in my hands and just believing in me," Rose said.

It was a good confidence boost for both the oft-injured guard, and a team that had lost two of its last three home games by a combined seven points.

"He needed that shot, you know what I'm saying?" Gibson said. "He's been putting in so much work in, we've been in that situation a couple times this year and it didn't go his way."

Rose picked up the slack for Towns, who had 30 points but only two after halftime. He went 13 of 13 from the free-throw line in the half, but struggled against Phoenix's double teams in the second.

"We just stepped it up in the second half," said Dragan Bender, the main man charged with defending Towns. "We came out, tried to double him, try to get the ball out of his hands and make the other players make plays."

With Towns struggling against double-teams in the second half, Rose kept the Wolves in the game on 11-for-18 shooting in the half.

Clippers 103, Spurs 95

In San Antonio, the Los Angeles Clippers have lost so often recently, they had nothing to lose against the Spurs.

Turns out, that can be a real winning attitude.

Tobias Harris had 27 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and the Clippers beat the Spurs to snap a five-game losing streak.

"You see what you do when your back is against the wall," Los Angeles veteran Patrick Beverly said. "We came out swinging."

The Clippers led for all but 14 seconds in handing the Spurs their second straight loss at home.

"I think they out executed us and out competed us tonight every way, shape and form," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "And, we were sloppy with the ball on top of it, so that's a bad combination."

LaMarcus Aldridge had 30 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, who committed 18 turnovers.

San Antonio pulled within 101-95 with 31.7 seconds remaining on Aldridge's final basket, but Los Angeles escaped a full-court press and sealed it on two free throws by Beverly.

Beverly finished with 18 points, 12 rebounds and five assists. Montrezl Harrell added 18 points in his first start, and Avery Bradley had 15 points for the Clippers.

"Everybody who played, bro, they came in with great energy, good minutes," Beverly said.

The Clippers had little trouble scoring despite being without Lou Williams and Danilo Gallinari, who both sat out due to injuries.

The Clippers went on a 22-2 run bridging the first and second quarters, turning a one-point deficit into a 45-26 lead with 11 minutes remaining in the first half.

Pacers 120, Hornets 95

In Indianapolis, Darren Collison threw the early scoring punches. Victor Oladipo delivered the decisive second-half flurry.

Together, the Indiana Pacers' starting guards were a knockout combination.

Oladipo scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half, Collison finished with 19 points and nine assists and surging Indiana pulled away from the Charlotte Hornets for their fourth win in five games.

"Me, Bojan (Bogdanovic), Vic, we were all being aggressive on the pick-and-roll," Collison said. "When all three of us are aggressive, it's tough to beat us."

The Pacers have proven it by going 11-3 over the past month and improving to 16 games above .500 for the first time since the end of 2013-14.

It's not by happenstance, either. Coach Nate McMillan has repeatedly challenged his players to move the ball and stay aggressive on offense while confounding opponents with their ability to stay in front of the ball on defense.

Indiana has used that blueprint to win its last four games by 86 points, all by at least 12.

Charlotte fell into the same trap as the other teams — falling behind early and trying to play catch-up against the league's top scoring defense.

Kemba Walker led the Hornets with 23 points but didn't get enough from a supporting cast that was held in check. Malik Monk finished with 11 points off the bench while Bismack Biyombo and Jeremy Lamb each scored 10 as the Hornets' three-game winning streak ended.

"What's kept us in games in the last few games is our defense. Tonight, it didn't," Charlotte coach James Borrego said. "They played well. They shot well."

It didn't take long for the Pacers to start pulling away as Collison scored 11 in the first quarter to help the Pacers jump to a 32-16 lead.

Charlotte fought back with a 12-2 spurt to get within 34-28.

Then Indiana reasserted itself by rebuilding a 45-32 lead, extending the margin to 17 and fending off the Hornets' second-half charges thanks largely to Oladipo.

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keeper coaches in Guam.

Chargualaf, according to GFA, discussed "Energy Systems" during the opening day of the course and later facilitated the stretches and warm-up exercises at the GFA pitch. He also conducted small-sided games for conditioning. As for Awa, he was in charge of the goalkeeping session, demonstrating techniques and skills covering the toughest position at the pitch and answering questions from the participants.

After the back-to-back sessions at the pitch, the three NMIFA coaches and their Guam counterparts will spend the remainder of the course in a classroom setting.

Zapanta, Pagarao, and Angeles' certification course is timely, as the CNMI national teams prepares for several off-island tournaments this year. Angeles has been with the CNMI men's and boys national squads for the past several years, assisting head coach and NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita. Zapanta also worked with a couple of CNMI youth teams and played for the Blue Ayuyus once, while Pagarao is with the Commonwealth's women's national pool.

'TINY'

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is devoted properly, with good playing time as well."

When asked about his training regimen, Camacho shared that much of his after-school routine is sectioned off to golf activities.

"I stay at the driving range from about 3:30pm to 7pm most nights, if not longer. Practice days are twice a week with the team and about three more days on my own," the Grace Christian Academy student said.

Camacho will be making his debut in a regional competition and expects more pressure in the Pacific Games. To personally prepare for the intimidating competition, he will be joining other tournaments as well. Camacho will be playing in the Philippines Airlines Junior Championships, which will be held in March. There are also local tournaments lined up this year before Camacho's group head to Apia.

"The trip to the Philippines in March is going to be an amazing experience for exposure and feeling to get ready for the amount of physical stress we'll have in Samoa," Camacho said.

The junior golfer hopes that with the long preparation time, his white-knuckled work ethic, and more playing opportunities, he will be in prime position to represent the CNMI in

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(downloadable files). For athletes who have competed in the Pacific Games, Mini Games, and Micronesian Games, they are not required to submit a photo, unless they want to use a new one in Samoa. White also reminded athletes that their passports should be valid until December 2019.

Only U.S. passport holders will be allowed to compete for the CNMI and they must have resided in the Commonwealth for a total of five years. Those who left the CNMI temporarily to study or join the military are still eligible for the five-year residency.

Twenty-six sports will be played in this year's Pacific Games with the CNMI confirmed to send athletes/teams in weightlifting, canoe, athletics, and golf competitions. Local tennis, baseball, swimming, badminton, basketball (3x3), and triathlon associations have also expressed their interest for the summer tournament.

Palau, Samoa vie for 2025 Mini Games hosting

Meanwhile, two countries have turned in their bids for the 2025 Pacific Mini Games.

Samoa and Palau met the Jan. 14 deadline for the submission of bids and their documents will be subjected for evaluation by the executive board of the Pacific Games Council. An evaluation report will be then sent to the 23-member island nations mid May, while the winning bid will be announced on July 14 during the group's general assembly in Apia.

IT&E 3rd Saipan Duathlon/Sprint Triathlon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Swimmers pose for a photo before heading into the waters off Paupau Beach during last Saturday's IT&E 3rd Saipan Duathlon/Sprint Triathlon.

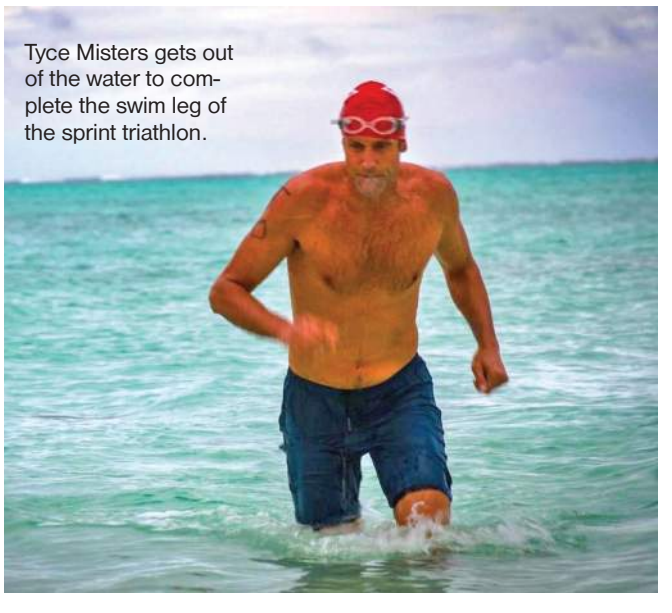
From left, lawyers Robert Torres, Janet King, and Colin Thompson take time off from their busy schedule to join last weekend's kickoff for the Road to Tagaman Race Series.

Kathy Ruszala removes her cap as she gets out of the water.

Tania Tan is on her way to completing the duathlon race.

Mark Isip keeps a steady pace on his way to the finish line at Paupau Beach.

Raymund Tolentino celebrates his finish in the long course duathlon.



Tyce Misters gets out of the water to complete the swim leg of the sprint triathlon.

Shawna Brennfleck slows down on her way to the bike-run transition area.

Tsitsipas eliminates Federer; Nadal wins

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Sports

Pats vs Rams in a meeting of past vs future

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'Tiny' up for bigger competition

JON PEREZ
Sebastian "Tiny" Camacho practices his swing during a training session at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort driving range.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After making it through qualifying tournaments, junior golfer Sebastian "Tiny" Camacho has shifted his focus to a bigger competition—the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

Camacho was named to the CNMI Golf Team along with Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, Ryan Kim, J.J. Atalig, Edward Lee, and alternate Tony Satur after playing in a series of qualifiers that started late last year. CNMI Federation of Golf Associations made the selection early this month, leaving Sebastian Camacho and company with a little over five months to prepare for the quadrennial event. The Pacific Games will run from July 7 to 20 with the golf tournament set for July 10 to 13 at the Faleata Golf Course.

"When I qualified for the team that will represent the CNMI, at first, I didn't believe it," Camacho said. "I put in two weeks of work at the [golf] range every day, and I was just glad that it paid off. I was just happy to make it and have my parents feel relieved after I made it."

"I feel like five months is a better amount of time [to prepare], but even then we can never be sure we'll be ready financially and physically," the junior golfer said. "Although there are potential financial and preparatory hurdles, five months will be more than enough if our time

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3 seek AFC B coaching certificate

JILL ESPIRITU/GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Jersh Angeles tries to control the ball in a small-sided game held during the Asian Football Confederation B Coaching Certificate Course in Guam last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Ruselle Zapanta, Jersh Angeles, and Irish Pagarao are back in Guam for the second part of the Asian Football Confederation B Coaching Certificate Course.

The three coaches left Saipan last Friday morning for the final phase of the course that will run until Jan. 25 at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo. They attended and completed the first part of the course last August under the same AFC instructor, Yusuke Adachi of Japan, and his assistant Kazunori Ohara.

"We will be taking all the written exams and will undergo the third and last practical assessment," said Angeles before he left the island for the eight-day event. We need to pass all the tests to get the AFC B certificate.

Angeles, Zapanta, and Pagarao are among the nearly 20 coaches taking part in the course, which also had GFA's Mark Chargualaf and Ross Awa as guest speakers last weekend. Chargualaf is an AFC B coach, getting his certificate last year, while Awa is one of the licensed goal-

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NMSA sets May 1 deadline for Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local sports federations sending athletes to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa must submit the entries by names for accreditation on or before May 1.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Runners compete in the 5,00m race during the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 at the Oleai Sports Complex. Runners will head to Apia, Samoa this summer for the 2019 Pacific Games.

The entries by names deadline are only for athletes, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White clarified, adding that team officials and coaches can be accredited later. Pacific Games Council, which sanctions the quadrennial event, under its charter, has set the deadline for entries by name 45 days before the Games or on May 23. However, White wanted to set an earlier deadline to have more time collecting and processing the accreditation papers of athletes.

Players who will compete in the July 7 to 20 event must turn in a passport-style photo and a copy of their passport. Submissions can be made personally or electronically

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